Daily Report

Latin America

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UN Biodiversity Summit Discusses Reef Initiative

FL0912202794 Bridgetown CANA in English 1655 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Dec 9, CANA—Bahamas' ambassador-designate for the environment, Lynn Holowesko, has indicated that the Bahamas will become a partner in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

Government representatives from the seven partner countries: Australia, France, Jamaica, Japan, the Philippines, United Kingdom, and the United States, discussed the importance of the initiative to developing and developed countries as well as those with and without coral reefs at the United Nations Conference on Biodiversity on Thursday.

"More of our country is water and coral reefs than is land, and this is an issue which is extremely important for us as far as sustainable development is concerned," said Holowesko. Holowesko told the conference that, although the Bahamas is not a partner in the ICRI, "it is safe for us to say that the Bahamas is not a partner yet".

According to Timothy Wirth, under secretary for Global Affairs Department of State for the U.S., the initiative is designed to make the abstract issue of biodiversity a reality. "Coral reefs around the world are enormously important in terms of sustaining life, maintaining economies, maintaining whole ecological fabric, and probably as well being a very important indicator of global climate change," Wirth said. There is a lot of scientific information about coral reefs, and because this ecosystem has a global effect, an initiative such as the ICRI is neccessary for countries to pool the knowledge available, Wirth added.

According to Easton Douglas, Jamaica's minister of public service and the environment, the support of marine life maintains economic development, develops beaches for developments in the tourism industry, and supports the food chain. "We have come to learn that among nations and among islands there is a great deal of interdependency and it is, therefore, very important that we have this initiative to protect our coral reefs because it does not only affect islands, it affects continents and large countries," said Douglas.

Australia boasts extensive reef developments in both the Pacific and the Indian Oceans, hence its partnership in the ICRI. "Australia is a natural partner in this initiative for a number of reasons. Firstly, I'm sure that most of you know that we have extensive coral reeds ourself and we have often thought that the Great Barrier Reef should be added to the list of the Seven Wonders of the World," said Penelope Wensley, permanent representative of Australia to the UN in Geneva and ambassador for the environment. According to Wensley, the time has come for countries to move away from the rhetoric and now find practical uses for the tools at hand. "There was an emphasis for practical, and realistic and focused action to address many issues including coral reefs," she added.

The initiative recognises the need for individual countries to develop and maintain conservation programmes focusing on their individual needs. The partner countries will sponsor the International Coral Reef Initiative Workshop from May 29 through June 2, 1995, in Dumaguete City in the Philippines.

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Further Reportage on Americas Summit in Miami

Accords Create Free Trade Zone

FL1212195494 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leaders from 34 countries of the western hemisphere are now forging one of the world's largest free trade zones. The heads, including Prime Minister the Right Honorable Hubert A. Ingraham, vow to break down trade barriers from Alaska to Argentina by the year 2005. In the meantime, the United States, Mexico and Canada have invited Chile to join the North American Free Trade Agreement. Martin Albury is traveling with the prime minister and has this report:

[Begin Albury recording] Closing out their first summit in 27 years, western hemispheric leaders, including prime minister of the Bahamas, Right Honorable Hubert Ingraham, signed a declaration of principles and a plan of action forging closer ties and launching a massive free trade zone from Alaska to Argentina. The heads of government signed the wide-ranging accords in pairs. Prime Minister Ingraham and Prime Minister the Honorable P.J. Patterson of Jamaica signed the accords together. In closing out the summit yesterday, U.S. President Mr. Bill Clinton said the agreement was more than mere words.

[words indistinct] the governments of the Caribbean, Prime Minister of Barbados the Honorable Owen Arthur said trade is a matter of life or death for the Caribbean region. He added that the stimulation of tourism in the region to...[pause] is the single most protective action that could be taken for the prosperity of the region.

But the most moving comment at the closing ceremony came from the newly installed Haitian president, Jean Bertrand Aristide: We are [passage indistinct]

As the summit came to an end, Mexico, Canada, and the United States invited Chile to join the North American Free Trade Agreement, the first expansion of [word indistinct] that took effect. [end recording]

[Studio announcer] The prime minister and his delegation are expected back in the capital sometime on Tuesday.

Barbados Leader Urges Unified Market

FL1212150194 Bridgetown CANA in English 2150 GMT 11 Dec 94

[From CANA's broadcast news summary 11 Dec]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It's all over—the first hemispheric summit of the Americas in 27 years, in Miami.

But what did it achieve?

Caribbean leaders are today pondering this question following the Clinton administration's hosting of the summit which ended Sunday with agreement on the establishment of a hemispheric free trade zone by the year 2005.

Key Caribbean concerns, including bananas and debt relief however did not make the agenda in a big way.

Barbados' prime minister Owen Arthur, head of the 13-member Caribbean Community, however contends one thing is clear:

Caribbean governments will need to push hard and create a single market as soon as possible.

He says the creation of the hemispheric free trade zone will prove very competitive for Caribbean economies.

Aristide's Activities Reported

FL1312000694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Summit of the Americas, attended by 34 heads of state, has ended. President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is expected in Port-au-Prince on 12 December. The head of state arrived in Miami on 8 December following travel without incident. He had an initial tete-a-tete with Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera, followed by a Caribbean African-American banquet [previous three words in English] with Caribbean and African-American business people. The dinner was hosted by two members of the U.S. Congress. The principal speaker at this party, President Aristide was widely applauded by an audience that included numerous Haitians.

The president was particularly busy on Friday, 9 December, meeting in turn with Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres Olsen; Trans-Africa Executive Director Randall Robinson; USAID assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mark Schneider; a representative of the IMF; U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher; and Argentine President Carlos Menem.

The president also visited Little Haiti on 59th Street in Miami where the Toussaint Louverture School and the Haitian community received him very warmly with songs and folk dances. In the evening, the president participated in a dinner to honor the heads of state and government present at the Summit of the Americas. Again, President Aristide is expected back in Port-au-Prince on 12 December.

Calderon Sol Discusses Trade

PA1312005294 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 12 Dec 94 p 3A

[News conference by Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol with unidentified reporters at the end of the Summit of the Americas in Miami on 11 December]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, how can you definitely help the Concausa [Central American-USA Group] agreement? In what areas will the United States help? How will the project start?

[Calderon Sol] There is a whole strategy for Central America's development in which we have taken into account democratic principles and integration. We are going to rebuild the region.

We hope that as partners with the United States and Canada, which will contribute a modest but significant amount, we will be able to protect the environment, which in turn will protect development for future generations.

If you ask me what are we going to do right now, I can tell you that agreements currently exist and that we have received empathy and promises. Many people believe we have come to beg for money, but we have not come for that. If this were the case, I would not have come.

Even the North Americans believe that we have come to ask for money. We have not come to request gifts from the United States. We have come to ask for trade and investment, as well as to become partners. And this is what President Clinton assured us—support for the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

We are asking that they be our partners, because we also believe that if they do not want illegal immigrants, they must look deeper—in other words, look at the development of our peoples. Our people want work, but they want dignified work.

We came to tell America that we are here to be partners in development.

[Reporter] Dr. Calderon, in your opinion, what has been the greatest benefit Central America has obtained from this Summit of the Americas?

[Calderon Sol] President Clinton's clear endorsement of the Temporary Trade Program.

The commitment to fight before Congress for a program that favors us in order that Central America does not end up at a disadvantage compared to Mexico, which could grab all of the American investments and benefits.

We have been conscientious, and we have President Clinton's understanding and the Central American presidents' clear pledge. We believe that he is a true ally of Central America in terms of this request.

Nevertheless, we know that President Clinton lives in a democracy and has to work to achieve what he intends.

[Reporter] We have viewed with satisfaction that the Central American presidents zealously sought support for the struggle against Proposition 187, which has been described as a violation against human rights.

Did you see this same enthusiasm, this vitality, in discussions about human rights violations in Cuba?

[Calderon Sol] These are matters that affect our nations, but if we have to examine and characterize the behavior of each chief of state, we have to speak out against Proposition 187, because it is a measure that runs directly counter to the human rights of people.

I do not believe there is one single democratic person in the world who does not want liberty and democracy for the Cuban people. There was no resolution on this, because this Summit of the Americas was not about this issue.

What we, the people who believe in liberty and democracy, have achieved is that people like you can ask me this question. We have created public awareness for the fact that in Cuba there must be democracy, that Castro's days are drawing to an end, and that there must be an opening toward democracy.

This is not a problem of the United States, either. That country does not have to be a policeman. This is a problem of democracy for a people and those who believe in liberty.

We must examine this problem in a very realistic way. The issue is often misconstrued by speaking of a United States-versus-Cuba situation. That is not the way it is. This is a matter of liberty versus non-democracy.

[Reporter] The president of Bolivia said recently that democracy in Cuba can be achieved only through a serious dialogue among Latin American countries. Do you support the idea of a continuous dialogue? Would you join in this?

[Calderon Sol] If it is necesary to achieve liberty in Cuba, why not? Why see things as black or white? If political opportunities exist, why reject a dialogue?

Extremism has always weakened us. We must open the doors to dialogue. I agree that we must struggle for democracy, and if the Cuban people will benefit from an open dialogue, then we must demand this to initiate a transformation.

We are not going to provoke any bloodshed in Cuba, either. There must be a peaceful transformation. We must open Castro's mind in such a way that he understands that he is passe and that, as dean of America's dictators, he is as outdated as the 1950's.

This is a different world.

[Reporter] Mr. President, it has been said that the Central American countries, as a bloc, would call for discussing the issue of Cuba. As far as we know, this did not occur. Why?

[Calderon Sol] This issue was not on the agenda, but the position was presented. I presented it along with Presidents Menem, Caldera, and other heads of state. However, because this is an ongoing issue, we decided it would be suitable to discuss it within hemispheric organizations.

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We can call to a dialogue both the opposition forces and those that support Castro. What is stopping us from undertaking this kind of commitment? Politicians have the obligation to do this and to do it at appropriate forums, but not at this summit, because this was not an objective of this meeting.

[Reporter] Mr. President, your country overcame a war and was able to establish an opening for peace. My country, Colombia, is going to initiate a dialogue to enable the Colombian guerrillas to rejoin civilian life. President Samper and the Peace Council have reviewed the Salvadoran process with much enthusiasm. President Samper said during a reception that he plans to ask El Salvador for advice.

Has he already made such request?

[Calderon Sol] Not exactly, but we have received from President Samper words of admiration for the process and expressions of interest in analyzing it.

Let me tell you that the Salvadoran case is an example of hard work, and if dialogue proved to be a valuable tool for peace in El Salvador, why should this tool not be used in Colombia, or why not in Cuba to create an opening for liberty and a transition that could lead to a transformation on the island? It could lead to a gradual transformation the way transformations have been achieved in other nations.

Why cannot the Cuban people have this?

Samper, Gaviria Analyze Summit Results

PA1312030494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 94

[Report by special correspondent Darcy Queen via satellite from Miami; passages within quotation marks are recorded; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Samper said his participation in the Summit of the Americas was positive. His proposal for an organization to investigate money laundering throughout the hemisphere was welcomed, and he thinks it is feasible for Colombia to join NAFTA.

President Samper's proposal to combat money laundering is taking shape. He met with Under Secretary of State Alexander Watson today to discuss the details.

[Watson] "I want a group of experts to study how we can reach an agreement on money laundering in the hemisphere to support other governments. By the same token, we will be working as intermediaries so we can take this to a ministerial meeting. After that has been done, we will take it to our respective legislatures for approval."

They also talked about relations between the two countries.

[Samper] "We reviewed the state of relations between the two countries, and I believe they are excellent."

Before this discussion, Samper visited the Colombian community and THE MIAMI HERALD and delivered a speech before the Caribbean and Latin American Conference.

[Samper] "We would like Colombia to be admired for its flowers. We are world's second largest producer of flowers. [applause]"

He even had time for a little tennis. Before he returned to Colombia, the president evaluated the summit.

[Samper] "We have a great chance to join NAFTA and improve our trade possibilities. Colombia proposed mechanisms for fighting money laundering so the international community will accept its responsibility in the struggle.

[Unidentified reporter] "How did the Colombian proposal fare?

[Samper] "I think it went very well. It received full support. We are also very pleased to have been able to revive the Andean Group, define the official initiation date for the Group of Three, and make some bilateral contacts."

Meanwhile, Chile's dream came true as it joined NAFTA. The other presidents of the Americas admit that the path is not easy, but the goal is very specific: a hemispheric market of approximately 800 million consumers by the year 2005. Today, one day after the conclusion of the summit, it is becoming obvious who reaped the benefits of the meeting. Chile undoubtedly received the greatest benefit of the Summit of the Americas. Its entry into NAFTA is one of the summit victories.

[Chilean President Eduardo Frei] "This is definitely a great opportunity for our country."

The OAS also gained power, as Clinton made the OAS responsible for making sure the deadlines and agreements signed this weekend are met.

[OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria] "This is a tremendous responsibility for the OAS, which will have to change and work intensely throughout the years to reorganize its resources."

In general, the presidents said they were pleased with the summit, which initially did not seem to promise much but which resulted in an historic agreement, a free trade agreement for the Americas in the year 2005. Now, the big question is: Will Clinton be able to keep his promises in the face of a Congress that does not think much of Latin America? Senator Graham from Florida thinks it is possible. It is a beginning, and the results will have to be reported at the next Summit of the Americas in Bolivia in 1995.

Colombian exporters received President Bill Clinton's announcement of a single free trade zone in Latin America with a positive yet cautious attitude. According to them, Colombia will have to face the challenge of

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becoming more competitive. The creation of a free trade zone in Latin America is the Clinton administration's specific reply to a proposal by former President George Bush, who launched the so-called Initiative for the Americas, which is customs unity from Alaska to Patagonia. Even though it might be unified by the year 2005 and it has been approved by the nations involved, the task ahead calls for stronger efforts.

[National Association of Exporters President Jorge Ramirez] "It is crucial that we adjust our macroeconomic policy to keep Colombian competitiveness from deteriorating."

Experts also agree that the economy must be carefully managed and that we must avail ourselves of the experience of having participated in international negotiations in order to guarantee the success of this process.

[National Association of Financial Institutions President Javier Fernandez] "We are very competitive in certain fields: in manufacturing, textiles, and a large segment of the food industry. We are very competitive in several areas. In industries such as steel, iron, and petrochemicals, however, I believe there are countries which are much more competitive than Colombia."

The Colombian Government must now ensure entry into NAFTA with the United States and negotiate with the rest of the hemisphere later.

Samper Views Summit Highlights

PA1312041194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0230 GMT 13 Dec 94

[Interview with Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano by Yamil Amat, following the Summit of the Americas, in Miami on 12 December; from the "CMI Newscast"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Amat] What was the best part of the summit, Mr. President?

[Samper] President Clinton's warmness toward all of the heads of state.

[Amat] What disappointed you?

[Samper] I would not go as far as to say disappointment, but I would have preferred that a definite date had been agreed upon for the next summit so that this issue does not remain pending.

[Amat] What impressed you the most?

[Samper] That is a good question. I would say to see how similar all of us are in terms of our problems, our same hopes. That impressed me a great deal.

[Amat] What made you feel proudest?

[Samper] To be able to show during the summit what Colombia is, as well as Clinton's recognition of Colombia and of Colombia's struggle against drug trafficking. That made me feel good.

[Amat] What was the historic part of this summit?

[Samper] After 27 years, countries that are neighbors have sat down to talk. It is incredible that we have let 27 years go by without doing this.

[Amat] What will you always remember?

[Samper] On the social side, Saturday's dinner—the camaraderie, the fireworks. This was truly beautiful, with Latin American music in the background.

[Amat] Any frustration?

[Samper] I would have liked a pledge to resolve issues that I had raised—issues such as roses, bananas. The same thing is happening with Brazilian steel. I would have liked to clear the table of those pending issues.

[Amat] What was the greatest achievement?

[Samper] The fact that there will be ministerial meetings on the approved topics beginning in January 1995. Here is where we began experiencing the Latin American feeling, which had not been experienced in many years.

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Cuba

News Reports From Miami Discuss Summit Outcome

U.S. Blockade Said Rejected

FL1212221794 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a PRENSA LATINA correspondent, rejection of the U.S. blockade against Cuba is among the major outcomes of the Summit of the Americas. The report by Susana Hugarte, dated 12 December, Miami, states that President Clinton himself admitted at the end of the summit that the majority of the countries in the hemisphere disagree with that U.S. policy. Clinton also acknowledged at the summit that many nations in the region support the UN resolution demanding the end of the blockade against Cuba. PRENSA LATINA added that the Cuban far right and Argentine President Carlos Menem were the discordant notes in the summit, which strongly defended the principle of nonintervention or meddling.

From the beginning of the summit, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo stressed his country's disagreement with Cuba's exclusion, and its rejection of the U.S. blockade. Similar views were expressed by the Colombian and Brazilian leaders in their addresses, which together with other Latin American and Caribbean states, plus Canada, represented an absolute majority against the policy of hostility and aggression toward Havana.

A foreign correspondent told the PRENSA LATINA reporter: They wasted their money, referring to the million-dollar propaganda blitz by various Cuban-American extremist groups in Miami.

Reports on Hemispheric Free Trade Zone

FL1312020794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Dec 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The topic of greatest interest was that relating to trade. The announcement of a free trade zone from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego by the year 2005 was embraced by some, but according to reports, the meeting offered few concrete ideas on a way to achieve that goal. Jorge Millares, of Radio Habana Cuba, has more details.

[Begin Millares recording] Speaking on the issue with accredited reporters, Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria stated that what was established was merely a flight plan which will keep Latin American Government officials occupied for the next few years. He added that so far nothing is definite.

Numerous meetings for ministers and high-level officials have been announced. [words indistinct] will meet to determine what tariffs will be eliminated first. If anyone returned home with a little more than a sack of promises, it was Chilean President Eduardo Frei, who in a ceremony following the signing of the summit's declaration, was invited by the three member countries of the North American Free Trade Agreement—Mexico, the United States, and Canada—to join the accord. U.S. President Bill Clinton took that opportunity to sell his free trade plan for the area. The process for Chile to entirely incorporate itself into the treaty should take about 18 months. Nevertheless, many have pointed out that for this announcement to materialize, the U.S. Congress would have to grant Clinton presidential authority known as the fast track—recently taken away from him—which would allow the president to negotiate this and other trade agreements without Congress' right to alter them once submitted.

Furthermore, the first repercussions have begun to occur on the issues approved in this the first hemispheric summit in the last 27 years. San Salvador's Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez warned in his Sunday [11 December] Mass that the summit is insufficient to overcome the ancient problems of the region and stressed that the development of trade means nothing if it is not aimed at improving the living conditions of the peoples.

In Peru, skepticism was expressed by the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who said that he had seen many presidential summits such as this one in Miami and very few results have been achieved from all those summits. [end recording]

Panamanian Minister Views Cuba's Exclusion

PA1312024294 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 94

[Interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo by Jorge Millares in Miami after the conclusion of the Summit of the Americas; date not given; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Millares] We would like to hear your views on whether this summit fulfilled Panama's expectations.

[Lewis Galindo] Yes, indeed. We have been calling for the creation of a continental free market, and we are pleased. We believe that a 10-year timeframe is the right amount of time in which to make the necessary adjustments to the various countries' economies.

[Millares] Do you believe that such summits should be held regularly in the future? Could a regularly held summit replace the Ibero-American summits?

[Lewis Galindo] I believe these are two different things. I think these meetings should not take place as they did in the past. The last one took place 27 years ago. In this century, there have only been three of these summits. I believe we need to be able to include the United States,

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the Caribbean countries, and Canada, which are important members of the continent. The Ibero-American summits do not include them. I think that these meetings should be held every three years. There are regional groups that meet every year. The Pacific Rim countries recently met in Jakarta, Indonesia, and they meet annually. I believe that if we manage to hold meetings every three years it would be of great benefit for the entire continent.

[Millares] Do you believe then that the Ibero-American summits should continue to be held as planned?

[Lewis Galindo] I believe that they should be held. We need to maintain the links that date back to colonial times. Portugal and Spain are members of the EC and are our point of entry into this important trading group.

[Millares] Cuba was excluded from this summit. As a member of the Panamanian delegation, you know that Cuba regularly attends regional swearing-in ceremonies for heads of state and the Ibero- American summits. Does this not contradict the policy of excluding Cuba?

[Lewis Galindo] We have argued for better relations between Cuba and the United States. At the United Nations, we recently called for the embargo against Cuba to be lifted.

[Millares] It has truly been a pleasure talking to you. You have been very kind to take the time to give us these statements.

Commentary Assails 'Anti-Cuban Show' in Miami

PA1312031194 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Words indistinct] that is outlandish praise for free trade, the adoption of an agreement that creates doubts about the sovereignty of the nations of this hemisphere. The background was an anti-Cuban show staged by extremist Cuban-born immigrants.

While it is true that the 34 heads of state and government agreed to create a free trade zone from Alaska to Patagonia between now and 2005, the truth is that in Miami, the advocates of this project left the extreme poverty of 200 million people in a state of limbo.

Cuba has already pointed out this oversight of the so-called hemispheric summit, because, as is well-known, the wide gap between rich and poor Latin Americans does not represent a priority for the host country, the United States.

Free trade, considered a miracle panacea for the ills of the region, became the mirage that dominated the summit and removed negative elements from plans for an agreement to create an international force of white helmets that will be tasked with going to any country in case of natural disasters and other emergencies.

Cuba always will view with great suspicion ideas such as this—an idea which, according to reports, was defended ardently by Argentine President Carlos Menem, who not by chance became the symbol of the extreme right-wing Cuban-born immigrants calling for a further tightening of the U.S. blockade against the island.

These hotheads, many of them led by Nazario Sangenis, a notorious terrorist who has organized attacks and sabotage operations against Cuba, staged a boisterous public demonstration in Miami demanding that Cuba return to capitalism.

News agencies played the game of the Cuban-born Miami extremists and endlessly recounted Cuba's exclusion from the summit. Only a few reports listed Cuba's official position that the exclusion represented an honor.

As Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban parliament, has said, the Caribbean island has nothing to do with the Miami summit because a long time ago it resolved the problems that supposedly were going to be discussed at the meeting.

Moreover, the anti-Cuban tantrums were not able to drown out rational expressions, such as those of Christine Stewart, Canada's minister of state for Latin America and Africa. She pointed out that her country will work with other nations of the hemisphere to incorporate Cuba in an upcoming Summit of the Americas. She also noted that President Fidel Castro is supported by a majority of Cubans.

The Miami extremists, not fond of the pluralistic ideas they claim to defend, most likely have already placed this important Canadian official on their burgeoning blacklist.

Commentary Doubts Viability of Summit Objectives

PA1312041494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Dec 94

["Our America" commentary by Amalia Sanmartino; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle said on Sunday [11 December]: I hope my son does not have to meet 27 years from now to analyze the same issues we have discussed on this occasion. This cynical criticism might very well be shared by the other Latin American presidents, even though all of them signed the so-called pact for development and prosperity, the final document of the Summit of the Americas, a three-day meeting in Miami, United States. The criticism is valid, [word indistinct] Chile, a country that has joined NAFTA, which was signed by the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The demands from Latin America and Caribbean [words indistinct] which

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attended the meeting convened by their colleague, Bill Clinton, and [words indistinct] such measures [words indistinct] of being part of a free trade zone that will stretch from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego by the year 2005.

The final declaration of the [word indistinct] meeting, from which the United States decided to exclude Cuba, establishes the commitment of all the presidents to promote prosperity, democracy, free trade, and sustainable development in the Western Hemisphere.

Perhaps the participants themselves are skeptical because they are wondering how they will be able to promote so many good things if they continue to apply the neoliberal economic models of the powerful nations, including the U.S. host and [word indistinct]. Chilean President Eduardo Frei himself hit the nail on the head when he said: We are ashamed and saddened by the poverty of many millions of Latin Americans. It does no good if we have economic success without social development. Chile today is a macroeconomic success, but 30 percent of the population lives in poverty and neglect.

Definitely, the [words indistinct] of the summit [words indistinct] and to top it all off, this plan must be implemented by governments which are troubled by the people's pressure against unemployment, the poor quality of health and education services, and other big social problems that [words indistinct] by the implementation of the neoliberal economic programs.

The Latin American presidents voiced their [words indistinct] but they probably did not stop thinking about how difficult it will be to maintain the democracy that has been bantered about so much, to fight poverty and illiteracy, and to change the political [words indistinct], drug trafficking, all of which [words indistinct].

Without solving the social problems of the region, which are more urgent for the presidents, they will have to continue waiting with all the risks that the wait entails, since no specific measure was adopted for immediate implementation. Judging by the urgent needs of over 200 million Latin Americans, the 10-year period established at the Summit of the Americas for guaranteeing health, education, and social welfare for the region could be very long. Every day that goes by represents a year of suffering [words indistinct].

Perhaps the Uruguayan president was not wrong when he spoke of a probable and useless wait of 27 years for the implementation of these plans. Will the projects of the Summit of the Americas be forgotten just like those of Punta del Este were forgotten in 1967 [words indistinct] although time does not go by in vain and the current problems are much more serious and explosive than those of 27 years ago. The risk of not complying with these [words indistinct] is also greater. All the presidents know that.

Summit Declaration 'Full of Contradictions'

FL1312011394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Commentary by Eduardo Dimas; from the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning. Yesterday afternoon the Summit of the Americas concluded—just as expected, with more ceremony than substance—with the signing of a four-page declaration of principles, entitled: Covenant for Prosperity, Democracy, Free Trade, and Sustainable Development in the Americas, and the approval of a 29-page plan of action in which the leaders pledge to strengthen representative democracy and human rights, to fight corruption, drug trafficking, terrorism, and international crime. It covers health, education, women's rights, and sustainable development, et cetera. The government leaders also agreed on the creation of a continental free trade zone and on holding a summit on development in 1996.

I should say that in my opinion, the declaration of principles is full of contradictions, some of which are quite considerable. For example, it is said that democracy, necessarily representative, promotes development and that development promotes democracy. Then why are these highly democratic nations calling for 100 percent of their students to complete grade school, and 75 percent to complete high school by the year 2010? How can you explain their reference to the need for guaranteeing universal health care by 2005, or guaranteeing the rights of women and minorities? How can the fact that 60 percent of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean—270 million people—live below poverty level be justified? And they ask for a more equitable distribution of wealth? This disregard for reality is about to become an axiom, at least in Latin American nations. It is absurd to say that bourgeois democracy promotes development and that development promotes democracy.

However, I have not discussed the most important and most dangerous contradiction. In the declaration of principles, the leaders were unanimous in their acceptance of the international laws, principals, and intentions of the UN and OAS documents, including inequality in states' sovereignty, in self determination, and in peaceful solutions to disputes. Lately, part of self determination is political pluralism. Nevertheless, the declaration of principles notes that the OAS document establishes that representative democracy is indispensable for the stability, peace, and development of the region. According to them, it is the only political system that guarantees respect for human rights and compliance with the law, and is the safeguard of cultural diversity and peace among nations. It is a fact that the summit's very plan of action completely contradicts this affirmation. Further on, the document emphasizes the leaders' decision to work to preserve and strengthen the democratic system through the OAS, against all challenges. In

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the event of a threat to democracy, they would act collectively to preserve, and if necessary, restore, democracy. At the closing ceremony, OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria said that the era of military dictators in Latin American has ended. If this is the sentiment of this envoy, so be it, but what would happen if a social explosion, such as those that can occur in Latin America, were to endanger the stability of a government? Would all the signing governments act to restore democracy in this case also? It is obvious that many of the declarations require clarification.

On the other hand, isn't the fact that bourgeois representative democracy is considered the only possible form of government in the region a way of isolating Cuba? Does this decision not contradict the famous principle of self determination of the people they are said to defend? It is good to point out that the majority of the leaders refused to support the declaration against Cuba presented by Argentine President Carlos Menem. This fact was acknowledged by President Bill Clinton in a press conference.

In short, the Summit of the Americas has ended. It would not be fair to make premature judgments about the agreements and plan of action as a whole. We will wait for the results of all of this, if there are any. Time will tell.

UN Vote Against U.S. Travel Restrictions 'Victory'

PA1312015794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2358 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 12 Dec (PL)—Cuba today earned a significant diplomatic and political victory when the United Nations approved a draft resolution, presented by Cuba, rejecting the measures the U.S. Government imposed against the island on 20 August 1994.

The UN General Assembly's Third Commission (dealing with social, humanitarian, and cultural issues) approved on a 78-4 vote with 65 abstentions the document entitled "Respect for the Universal Right To Travel and the Major Significance of Family Reunification."

The positive vote took on even greater significance because Cuba alone, without any ally, submitted the resolution, and because the U.S. delegation rejected it and made every effort to block it because it clearly opposes the steps the Clinton administration took on 20 August 1994 to intensify the blockade against the island.

The approved document "urges all states to guarantee the universally accepted right of freedom to travel for all citizens of other countries who reside in their territories legally."

The resolution also "stresses that all governments, especially those of the countries that accept immigrants, must recognize the major significance of family reunification and must encourage the approval of national laws to guarantee the protection of the unity of families of legal immigrants."

The document also urges all states "to allow the unrestricted entry of remittances that citizens of other countries living in their territories send to their relatives in their countries of origin."

In addition, the draft resolution calls on all countries to abstain from enacting or repealing [as received] legislative provisions that thwart immigrants' freedom to travel or that prevent family reunification and remittances.

The resolution calls on the Human Rights Commission to study this issue during its next period of sessions and present recommendations, via the Economic and Social Council, to the UN General Assembly during its 50th session.

While the illegal exodus of Cuban citizens to Florida was taking place in August, the United States decided to drastically reduce the number of flights by Cubans living in U.S. territory to the island to visit their relatives, to block their remittances, and to forbid the sending of packages containing basic necessities "in order to punish Cuba."

The Cuban document, which the full UN General Assembly must soon approve, is based on resolutions included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on the Plan of Action approved by the International Conference on Population and Development, which was held in Cairo in September 1994.

The draft resolution states that "the reunification of families of legal immigrants is a major catalyst of international migration," and it adds that the remittances these people send to their countries of origin often constitute a major source of foreign exchange and contribute to the welfare of those relatives left behind.

Foreign Minister Meets With Libyan Secretary

PA1212152094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0057 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 11 Dec (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and the delegation accompanying him held official talks in this capital city today with Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the People's External Liaison & International Cooperation Bureau.

In a climate, described as warm, friendly, and understanding, both officials mentioned the current situation of their respective countries and regions.

They also called for additional cooperation and coordination between smaller nations to confront the challenges of a unipolar world and the need to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement.

Robaina reiterated his gratitude for Libya's decision to support Cuba's struggle against the U.S. blockade, to which Muntasir responded by reaffirming the solidarity

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of his people and the government to the Cuban cause. "There would be no resistance if Cuba did not exist," he remarked.

Both ministers placed special emphasis on reactivating the agreements of the joint intergovernment commission for economic cooperation and commercial exchange between both nations in various spheres, particularly in the exchange of sugar for crude oil.

Al-Muntasir told Robaina after consulting with the Libyan authorities of the decision to send a delegation of Libyan businessmen to Havana in January 1995 for on-site discussions of the likelihood of broadening bilateral exchange.

Robaina has been carrying out an intense agenda since yesterday that included a meeting with the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress who visited Havana recently and attended the First World Solidarity with Cuba Conference.

Robaina also met today, during the early morning hours, with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at his home, which was bombarded on 15 April 1986 by U.S. fighter planes.

Robaina signed the book of honor after touring the house that remains just as it was after the bombing. He signed it in the room where the Libyan leader's daughter died.

The Cuban foreign minister met in addition with a group of Cubans living and working in Libya with whom he exchanged opinions on their experiences and Cuba's situation.

Every Libyan media service reported the visit and extensively highlighted the activities of the Cuban minister, whose visit to the country ends tomorrow when he departs Libya by road, just as he arrived.

Concludes Visit; Heads for Rome

FL1312032094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has concluded his visit to Libya, where he met by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and twice with Secretary of Foreign Affairs 'Umar al-Muntasir, as well as with the Assistant Secretary of the People's General Congress. During the meetings, held at all levels, political willingness was stressed for finding a means of reactivating bilateral relations in the economic sphere and of bringing to the practical sphere the high level of political and diplomatic relations. As part of his program in Libya, Robaina spoke with the community of sympathizers and Cuban residents, concluding with a meeting of ambassadors from Non-Aligned-Movement countries living in Tripoli and with representatives of the Libyan Secretariat of Foreign Affairs.

Tomorrow, Robaina will stop in Rome to begin the next stage of his tour through Northern Africa and the Middle East, which will conclude in Amman, the capital of Jordan, where he will have an intense work schedule. During his stay in Rome, Robaina will establish contacts with Vatican City authorities, which will allow him to continue earlier meetings held in Rome and Havana.

Uruguayan Envoy: Political, Economic Ties Good

PA1212162894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1610 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Report by Aisaa G. Garcia]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 10 Nov (PL)—Political and economic relations as well as cooperation between Cuba and Uruguay are very good, the Uruguayan ambassador to Cuba, Mario Alberto Voss, said here today.

In an interview with PRENSA LATINA, Voss expressed his satisfaction over the beginning of negotiations here on 9 December between Cuban Justice Minister Carlos Amat and Augusto Duran, Uruguayan deputy secretary of the Presidency, for an agreement on legal assistance on penal matters.

After stressing the importance of the agreement, Voss said it will be signed, tentatively, by the end of December during a visit to Cuba of Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu.

Voss, who has been residing in Cuba for the past four years, said these legal instruments are necessary to ensure successful bilateral political relations in dealing with such an important field as penal matters.

The visit by the third highest-ranking member of the Uruguayan executive branch demonstrates the interest both countries give to an agreement of this magnitude, which Uruguay has signed with other countries, including the United States according to Voss.

Voss said Duran, who met with Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban parliament, Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Bolanos, and Ernesto Melendez, minister for economic cooperation and foreign investment, among others, is pleased with the attention he has received from Cuban authorities.

Duran is the highest Uruguayan government official to visit Cuba in the past five years. The Uruguayan public health minister and members of the Chamber of Deputies had visited the island previously.

Asked about the purpose of Duran's trip, Voss said there is interest in seeking closer relations with Cuba and discussing the possibility of increasing the exchange of ideas and the understanding between the two nations.

He added: "Pragmatic relations lead to business talks, which in turn contribute in increasing trade between both countries."

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Culture Minister Analyzes Revolution, U.S. Imperialism

PA1212210594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1329 GMT 10 Dec 94

["Exclusive" article by Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos, written specially for PRENSA LATINA from the Cuban magazine BOHEMIA: "Centennial Commemorations: A Leftist Analysis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In less than five years, on 1 January 1999, U.S. imperialism will commemorate its 100th anniversary. That day we will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. Imperialist domination over Cuba lasted exactly 60 years, not a day less, not a day more. These dramatically related dates are essential for studying the history of the 20th Century, especially the history of the Western hemisphere.

Next year, on 24 February, we will commemorate the centenary of the day that marked the beginning of the popular and democratic war led by Jose Marti. "The necessary war" put an end to four centuries of colonial Iberian domination in America. Lenin described what was then called the Spanish-American War, as one of the main seams that led to the birth of imperialism as the advanced phase of capitalism.

With this as a basis, we can begin analyzing the 20th century from a leftist point of view, something this period very much needs because of the dramatic outcome, at the end of the 1980's and beginning of the 1990's, of the process initiated by the Russian Bolsheviks in 1917. This analysis will help social science specialists scientifically see through most complex and contradictory theoretical and political problems posed to this epoch's social, historic, and cultural sciences.

We must be aware of the obstacles we confront in this endeavor. Following Lenin's demise, it became impossible to make Marx's economic, social, philosophical, and political ideas germinate to the extent the revolution demanded to adequately evaluate the most important events of our century. This is why we must go back to the origin of Marx's ideas to begin the analysis and then interpret the facts.

In memorable pages, Engels wrote that at the tomb of his genial companero is the essence of his contribution. If we read the first paragraph of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, we will notice a discerning Marxist interpretation of history. To be consistent with that line of thought and taking into consideration that more than 150 years have gone by, we must make the following observations:

Some modern revisionists have said that we must keep Marx as a cultural issue only. If we are talking about today's culture in the view of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, we must consider its defense of the world's workers and exploited masses as an unrenounceable political and ethical premise. Marxist culture can be understood only if it is assumed that it is based on a desire and on work for a revolutionary transformation of the world for the liberation of man. Marti made evident his appreciation for the ethical sense of Marx' thoughts and life in the first line of the paragraphs he dedicated to the author of Das Kapital. He wrote: "Since he placed himself on the side of the weak, he deserves honor."

Marx's and Engels' thoughts contain the aspiration that mankind can consciously guide the course of history. Until now it has been the blind laws of social and economic processes that have conditioned the path of history. The idea is to consciously assume, on the basis of scientific analyses of social and economic evolution, the responsibility of directing events to favor justice and equality among men. This, of course, cannot be done by any single man alone, it must be done by a willing community guided by a political vanguard. To assimilate the Marxist and Leninist culture, the following must be considered:

Events since the days of Marx until now must be scientifically analyzed.

An analysis must be made to guide our actions in favor of the poor and to contribute to a revolutionary transformation of the world.

The Meaning of Events

With regard to the 1 January 1999 commemorations—the centenary of imperialism and the 40th anniversary of the revolution—let us select historic events to initiate, with basis on their interpretation, a leftist analysis of the 20th Century. This selection and this analysis lead us into an in-depth look at the meaning of the following events:

The history of the United States, from the Civil War until World War I. We could begin by reading a beautiful letter Marx sent to Lincoln. In it, the author of Das Kapital expressed his hopes that the victory of the North over the South would generate a movement of social struggle by the U.S. proletariat in favor of their full liberation.

As we know, this did not happen. The reason why this did not happen should be analyzed using Marxist methods. In studying the U.S. period from Lincoln to Wilson, we must study the emigration, for economic reasons, of European labor to the United States. The social boiler of the old continent had in this an escape valve. World War I was another valve. These analyses will lead us to Lenin's contribution on how industrial capital fused with financial capital in the 1880's and produced the export of capital, and we could relate this to Marti's works on imperialism.

It was in the 1880-1895 period of his life that Marx thoroughly learned about the United States. In other words, the necessary war, which concludes with the first U.S. intervention and, therefore, with its emergence as a world power took place in the historic period in which

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U.S. imperialism took shape. The history of the United States—from the war of secession until World War II—can be studied from the apostle's beautiful and profound descriptions and analyses in his Scenes From the United States.

The effect upon the full independence of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. Marti's predictions and the program of the necessary war. A key idea by the apostle is: "A mistake in Cuba is a mistake for America, a mistake for modern humankind."

What the loss of its last colony in America meant for Spain. The former metropolis had to make an analysis of national consciousness when it was left alone with its future. In the cultural aspect, that leads us to the significance of the '98 generation, the analysis of Spain's political evolution during the first three decades of this century leading to the creation of the Spanish Republic and the Spanish Civil War. The defeat of the republicans in 1939 has great significance in evaluating the events resulting from the Second World War and the Potsdam and Yalta agreements.

The necessary war's repercussions on the world's stability and the international expansion of what Marti had called "the American Rome" can be analyzed from, first, its effects on Cuba and later, from a description of how the United States promoted that expansion through economic means in the Antilles and Central America. The military and political events of this period should also be studied.

In the late 19th century and early 20th century important events took place in the fields of science and technology, which of course, had been incubating during the previous century. This, in turn, had an enormous repercussion in the subsequent evolution of science and technology in this century. It led to an increase in labor productivity throughout the 20th century, which gave capital and imperialism a greater maneuvering capability to continue with its system of domination.

This evolution took place following the discoveries of Lenin and of his clear vision of the importance of revolutionary movements, which in their time, had been taking place in the East. That is the key of our study: to analyze the history of the 20th century, starting with the situation created by colonialism and neocolonialism.

Marti's Vision

The economic expansion of the United States, especially starting with the Civil War, the immigration movements from Europe to America, the growth of science, technology, and labor productivity in highly developed countries, the economic and social evolution of Latin America, as well as the Third World phenomenon should be analyzed to allow us to better understand some of the realities of our century, some of which became obstacles for the revolutionary movement.

In the centennial celebrations that are fast approaching, Marti's thought is destined to become a permanent reference because of its universal extent and current importance. No one was able to figure out as well as the apostle had the complex political scheme that was woven in the late 19th century in the configuration of a new international order with a United States willing to conquer the hegemony of the world. No one else was better able to become aware of what the tentacles of imperialist power could represent, the power that was being incubated in North America with its capability to absorb and distort entities.

Marti's objective was not to face the United States but to impose, with Cuban independence, a barrier against that overwhelming force. The emancipatory proposal of our apostle involved the understanding of the balance of forces that had already been forming in the international field.

In his book, "In the Faithful of America," which he wrote in 1894 on the third anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Party, he talks about the Antilles, saying that if enslaved, they would become a mere war bridge between an imperialist republic against a superior, zealous world already preparing itself to deny it power (...). If free—and worthy of being so by virtue of equal liberty for workers—the Antilles would be a guarantee of balance in the continent, a guarantee of Spanish America's still threatened independence, and a guarantee of honor for the great republic of the north, which in the expansion of its territory—unfortunately, feudal in nature and apportioned in hostile sections—would find a more certain greatness than in the ignoble conquest of its smaller neighbors and in the inhumane fight it will wage, after having them in its possession, against the powers of the globe for the domination of the world.

Marti's vision gains current importance in this end of the century. It almost seems a postulate written for the current times by a contemporary author.

It is, therefore, time as it has always been for the men of Moncada and for all the generations involved in the Cuban revolutionary project to plan for the future under the guidelines of the apostle. Everything that is done to interpret the 100-year history that separates us from the necessary war, the events stemming from it, and what we are today by virtue of that war, has in Marti an inspirational and substantial source. With his life and enduring thoughts we shall enter the 21st century.

Minfar Begins Inspection of Central Army

FL1212184594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Report by Marta Fernandez from the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The objectives of the ministerial commission controlling the Central Army are being met

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satisfactorily. Over the course of its inspection, the committee will evaluate the state of defense efforts in Central Army territory, highlighting the large tank and infantry units of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR], as well as the large provincial and municipal areas of Villa Clara and Cienfuegos.

It is important to note that the highly successful maneuvers recently held under the command of the Central Army on the 38th anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces will also be included in the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [Minfar] inspection. In both Villa Clara and Cienfuegos practice demonstrations are being carried out by Territorial Troops Militia units and production and defense brigades. Leaders' knowledge of missions, the physical condition of the base, and compliance with the food production program will be evaluated.

Yesterday in Villa Clara, participants in a DAAFAR exercise demonstrated their expertise and precision. We will continue to cover the Minfar inspection of the Central Army in upcoming reports.

Antiaircraft Defense Exercise Reported

PA1212175594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1644 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 12 Dec (PL)—An antiaircraft defense exercise was staged in the central region of Cuba to test the preparedness of the leadership and command organizations as well as the strength and weapons to reject enemy air attacks, it was reported here.

Fighter planes of the eastern and western regions participated in the simulated attack of cities and economic, military, and political objectives, according to the weekly TRABAJADORES, "and were repelled in a timely manner" by all the capabilities of the system.

The exercise, which was held as part of an inspection of the central Army, has been carried out since 9 December and will last until 14 December by the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Ministry. The exercise also included the deployment and occupation of combat posts by hundreds of members of the reserves and militiamen.

Fast, Multipurpose Military Vehicle Design Introduced

FL0812115694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by Margarita Torres; from the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Torres] Chipojo is the name of a project that the Revolutionary Armed Forces will introduce on 13 December in the Ninth National Science and Technology Forum. It is the name of a jeep designed by specialists from a tank and transportation unit. The vehicle, designed to be quickly assembled and disassembled, is built on the chassis of a Gaz-66 gasoline truck. This fast, multipurpose vehicle is designed to handle any type of terrain, particularly hard-to-reach mountainous areas. Its designer, engineer Major Urbano Porras Navarro, explains:

[Begin recording] [Porras] The vehicle reaches speeds between of 75 and 80 miles per hour; fuel consumption is similar to the Gaz- 66; exterior measurements correspond to a Gaz-66; maximum gradient angles are similar to an A-Car [Carro A]. Although it is a jeep, it has the characteristics of a truck. From a technical point of view, this makes it a highly effective tactical vehicle.

[Torres] How many soldiers can it carry?

[Porras] It depends on the model. The prototype carries nine men.

[Torres] Is it similar to any other vehicle in the world?

[Porras] The outside is similar to an American vehicle called the (Rap-5), designed to fulfill similar missions. In terms of maneuverability it is not similar. This vehicle is built on the chassis of a truck, which gives it much more maneuverability on difficult terrain, although its dimensions are also much larger. [end recording]

Mass Marks Beginning of Ortega's Cardinal Ministry

PA1212174594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0113 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 11 Dec (PL)—A mass marked the beginning of the cardinal ministry of Ortega Alamino, Havana archbishop and president of the Cuban Bishops Conference, here today.

The well-attended mass held in the Havana cathedral was jointly celebrated by Ortega and two guest cardinals, Nicolas de Jesus Lopez Rodriguez of Santo Domingo and Bernard Law of Boston.

The cardinal expressed thanks in his homily for the presence of the Cuban authorities, who were represented by acting Foreign Minister Isabel Allende and Caridad Diego, chief of the Office of Attention to Religious Affairs of the Communist Party of Cuba.

A large group of diplomats accredited here, Cuban bishops, priests, nuns, and seminarians also attended the Eucharistic celebration, which also was attended by Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Beniamino Stella.

Ortega, 58, received the cardinal's ring and biretta from the sovereign pontiff in Rome on 26 November. He returned to Havana on 9 December.

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Bahamas

Foreign Ministry, Cuba Arrange Return of Refugees

FL1212214694 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A total of 11 Cuban refugees, of the more than 200 held at the Carmichael Road Detention Center, were deported back to Cuba yesterday. Jerome Sawyer reports that it was the wish of the 11 refugees to voluntarily leave The Bahamas.

[Begin recording] [Sawyer] Almost three weeks ago, dozens of Cuban refugees held at the Carmichael Road Detention Center went on a hunger strike to draw attention to their political status, which they felt lay in the hands of the United States and the United Nations. Just yesterday, 11 from the group—10 men and one woman—decided to argue no more, but to voluntarily return home. The 11 Cubans left for Cuba from Nassau's international airport at around 6:30 yesterday evening on board an Air Cubana flight. The director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, George Stewart, says the Cuban Government was willing to accept the refugees.

[Stewart] The Cuban Government was notified of the rafters' desire to return home. We communicated that desire to the Cuban Government and the Cuban Government said yes.

[Sawyer] A deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Carlton (Wright), says this is the first request from Cuban refugees held at the detention center to return home. The Ministry, he said, is willing to accommmodate others.

[(Wright)] There may be others who wish to join their compatriots in returning to Cuba, perhaps sometime in the future. We will respond to that request if and when it should arise.

[Stewart] The repatriation exercise has reduced the number of Cuban refugees detained at the Carmichael Road Detention Center to 254.

Barbados

Editorial Pans U.S. 'Pathological Fear' of Castro

FL1212160694 Bridgetown CANA in English 1447 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec. 12, CANA—Following is the text of the editorial in Monday's Advocate newspaper:

"Cuba should be represented at the Summit of the Americas in Miami. It isn't, because it is serving an indefinite penal sentence imposed by the world's only super-power for a system of government that does not meet with United States' approval.

One of the Western Hemisphere's remaining tin-pot dictators is not suitable company for the United States. In fairness to the United States, he has worked hard for such ineligibility; and his country, the arges [as received] island by far in this hemisphere, is disqualified on the official explanation that it is not a democracy. And indeed it isn't.

Strange, nevertheless. The world's mightiest nation wages a full-scale economic war against the mouthy Cuban regime of President Dr. Fidel Castro, but accelerates the dismantling of trade barriers with the even more repressive communist China. And sits with China on the United Nations' Security Council to boot.

But the United States is not without some plausible context for its selective, punitive treatment of Cuba. A growing and permanent anti-Castro presence within Miami itself—and elsewhere across the republic—tends to express its opposition more vigorously than those Americans who support full re-entry for Cuba into the Western community. More than mere expression, it has the weight of citizenship that includes roots firmly planted in the political and business landscape.

Massive anti-Castro demonstrations last week during the Summit are but a symptom of what awaits current or prospective legislators who dare ignore the absence of democracy in Cuba.

Only in America.

The voice of minorities is seldom as liberally accomodated, or as influential, anywhere else on earth; but in this instance at least it has the force of a democracy that gave birth to the United States in the first place.

If only that original liberal outlook could now include among its beneficiaries a country that presents no military threat to the United States; more particularly, a country which is driven to its knees by an embargo that victimises millions of innocent Cubans without any noticeable loss of authority or popularity of the dictator.

Is it not instructive to the United States that its cautious embrace of China has led that communist bastion on its first tentative steps towards a market economy? Is it not even more enlightening to mighty America that its extraordinary accommodation of countries behind the old Iron Curtain accelerated an end to the Cold War and encouraged the collapse of communism?

There is not sufficient [as received] in Cuba's political history to justify America's continuing pathological fear of the communism to which Castro mulishly clings.

If, on the other hand, Washington thinks what worked in Eastern Europe may have an opposite effect in Latin America and the Caribbean: that the possible survival of Cuba's communism would lead other countries in this region to choose that path, then the United States is neither learning the fundamental lessons of Eastern

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Europe nor understanding what caused the wide flowering of democracy where banana republics once stood in Latin America.

Put simply, those lessons have to do with the massive benefits of free choice in market economies. They show, as few other events have done, that, given half a chance, people will choose systems that permit them to function as normal human beings, not mindless appendages to some state apparatus.

This is the option that has worked wonders in this region.

To be sure, some Caribbean and Latin American countries view United States' eventual acceptance of Cuba with mixed feelings. For one, its re-emergence into the regional economic family will bring stiff industrial competition, particularly in tourism; but that is no reason to deny Castro's country either the courtesy of dialogue today or the benefits of hemispheric co-operation very shortly.

Speaking to the Castro regime—as distinct from fawning on that dictator—and opening up the channels for economic [as received] of a system that is repugnant to vast millions of decent people everywhere; including those Cuban exiles who, with good cause, yearn to tear him limb from limb."

Haiti

Aristide Confirms Signing Electoral Council Decree

FL1212200694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Jean-Bertrand Aristide announced in Miami over the weekend that he has signed the decree on establishing the provisional electoral council. He said that he hopes that this institution will be set up very soon, if not at the end of this month then next month. He did not announce a date for elections.

MDN Condemns Formation of Council

FL1312001294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Mobilization for National Development [MDN] of Hubert De Ronceray condemns the formation of a provisional electoral council. A statement by the MDN secretary general points out: We suffered so much from the convoluted decisions of the last three years. The constitutional president should provide the country with a permanent electoral council. The formation of a transitional council would constitute the most absurd move in the entire sequence of events.

[Begin De Ronceray recording] At the conclusion of two unfinished meetings with political parties at the National Palace on 27 October and on 3 November, it was the head of state's idea to form a provisional electoral council among his main supporters—with the banner of compromise between a provisional and a permanent, a transitional and an exceptional electoral council. [passage omitted]

Everything is occurring as if this constitutional government has rights at all levels and in all area. The excuses of time and the lack of departmental assemblies have been invoked to justify formation of this exceptional transitional electoral council. [end recording]

FRAPH Leader 'Failed To Appear,' Seeks Protection

FL1212221894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Emmanuel Constant is expected to miss his appointment with the Justice Department on Monday [date not specified]. The leader of the Revolutionary Front for the Promotion and Progress of Haiti [FRAPH], who has been summoned for attempted assassination and corporal torture, has in fact asked the examining judge to postpone this appearance. Emmanuel Constant, who had already failed to appear for his first hearing with the Justice Department, is demanding safety guarantees.

Army Spokesman Said To Resign for Personal Reasons

FL1212200194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A reliable source has reported that Colonel Appolos Laurore, Haitian Army spokesman, has decided to resign for personal reasons. The decision comes as authorities issue a list of 57 officers who must appear before a reforming commission. Colonel Laurore, who leads the military circle, does not appear on the list.

Jurists Deem Appointments Unconstitutional

FL1312003694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Association of Haitian Lawyers and Jurists [Association Nationale des Avocats et Juristes Haitiens, ANAJH] protests the measures adopted by the Aristide-Michel government. The association says the nominations made by the government blatantly violate the laws governing judicial organization in Haiti. The government nominated a president, a vice president, as well as nine new judges to the Court of Cassation. The association says that this action by the government will lead to a total concentration of

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political power, making the judicial body a group of judges subordinate to the executive branch, which can fire and replace them at will.

The ANAJH points out that Article 177 of the Constitution determines that judges of the Court of Cassation as well as those of the Courts of Appeal and of of First Instance are irremovable. This article specifies that these judges may not be subject to any new assignment without their consent, even in the case of promotion. Neither may they be suspended from duty during their mandate except for duly noted physical or mental incapacity. [passage omitted]

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New Muncipality Incorporated Into Zapatist 'Rebel' State

PA1312034694 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2214 GMT 12 Dec 94

[By Gloria Munoz Ramirez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guadalupe Tepeyac (Mexico), 12 Dec (DPA)—Several towns located in the territory controlled by the Zapatist guerrillas have formed a new municipality which will be part of the rebel Chiapas State.

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command (CCRI-CG) of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) yesterday formally surrendered civilian power of this region to a municipal council elected to preside over the town council of the new municipality, which is called San Pedro de Michoacan.

"Subcommander Marcos," "Major Moises," and "Commander Tacho," followed by a column of guerrillas, rode up to the new municipal offices located in this town, which a few days ago was a buffer zone and now is part of Zapatist territory.

"Commander Tacho" noted that the first point of the First Lacandona Jungle Declaration has been complied with. This point ordered Zapatist troops to protect civilians who have been "liberated," thereby allowing towns to freely and democratically elect their own administrative authorities.

The townspeople gathered in front of the building that used to be the town's inn, which has now been painted Zapatist brown and whose facade now carries a sign reading "The Zapatist Municipality of San Pedro Michoacan. The Rebel Chiapas State. Municipal County Seat." A red star, the EZLN's symbol, is in the middle of the sign.

"Commander Tacho" and "Major Moises" got down from their horses and sat behind a table in front of the new offices, where the eight new members of the new Municipal Council were sitting.

Meanwhile, "Subcommander Marcos" took his place at the side of the table, in front of the rebels, where he observed the formal handing over of the municipality from a prudent distance and in silence. Tacho was the first speaker. He recalled the promises of the First Lacandona Jungle Declaration and later cited the Law of Rights and Duties of the Fighting Peoples, which is part of the set of Zapatist revolutionary laws approved in 1993.

Commander Tacho pointed out that the first article of these laws mandates that "the peoples fighting against the oppressing government and the major domestic and foreign exploiters, regardless of their political affiliation, religion, race, or color, will have the right to freely and democratically elect their authorities and demand to be respected."

On behalf of the CCRI-CG, he also reminded the new authorities that the 1917 Mexican Political Constitution, the 1993 Zapatist revolutionary laws, and the local laws of the Municipal Council as determined by the local people are the laws they must obey and make the people obey.

"Major Moises" was holding the Mexican flag in his left hand. A steady drizzle dampened the ceremony, but no one moved. Women, children, men, and the entire town had gathered to meet the new local authorities. Moises read a brief statement. Some perhaps were glad he had written something down, because he usually takes a long time when delivering an impromptu speech.

"As the people's armed forces, we complied by submitting the civilian authority of this territory to the Municipal Council, which was freely and democratically elected. As of today, you, as representatives of the rebel government, must obey and make people obey the Zapatist revolutionary laws."

His tone was threatening. He was now talking to the new authorities, to the new government, and he displayed no leniency toward them: "I remind you that we, as the rebel army, took up arms against the bad government."

The Municipal Council has one president, one secretary, one treasurer (all with respective alternates), and one secretary of justice.

"We will learn everything as a child does. The times in which we are living are very difficult; however, it is also time to see how we are going to govern ourselves," the new municipal president said.

He added: "We will learn everything, and if we fail, companeros, you can remove us and elect others. We must advance the agrarian issue, health, and the marketing of our products via our laws. We will learn everything. Thank you for the trust you have placed in us."

Zedillo To 'Seek New Paths' To Peace in Chiapas

PA1312043694 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Dec 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Zedillo arrived in Mexico City this afternoon after participating in the Summit of the Americas. Upon arrival, Zedillo held a news conference with local reporters during which he discussed the situation in Chiapas, where the Zapatist National Liberation Army has announced that on 12 January it will unilaterally break the truce with the Mexican Army.

President Zedillo said he will seek new paths to bring peace to that state.

[Begin Zedillo recording] Over the past few days there have been no regrettable incidents in the conflict area. I

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sincerely hope it will remain that way and that in the next few weeks and days, with a different perspective and under less tension and pressure, we will be able to find the path toward dialogue to solve this problem. I do not believe we should resort to the same methods we have used this year in trying to resolve this conflict. I will seek other mechanisms, perhaps more institutional, more in accordance with methods already available to the government, to begin negotiations, reach agreements, and implement those agreements. [end recording]

PRD President Opens Council Session; Cardenas on Chiapas

PA1212165294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Escovedo; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Anchorman Jose Cardenas] Porfirio Munoz Ledo, president of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD, has opened the sessions of his party's National Council by asking the PRD members not to confuse the public by accepting political posts in the government and to maintain discipline regarding the principles upon which the party of the Aztec sun was founded. Here is a report via telephone by Juan Carlos Escovedo with details as well as remarks by Cuauhtemoc Cardenas about the Chiapas conflict. Good afternoon Juan Carlos.

[Escovedo] Good afternoon Carlos, listeners. As you said, PRD President Porfirio Munoz Ledo has inaugurated the sessions of his party's National Council, which should conclude on 11 December. In his speech to the council members, he justified the PAN [National Action Party] members' acceptance of government jobs due to the points of convergence between their party and the government.

Munoz Ledo replied to the criticism of the dialogue between PRD legislators and the Mexican chief executive and to Eraclio Zepeda's acceptance of holding a position in the government of Eduardo Robles in Chiapas. Munoz Ledo said the executive's simple rapprochement should not be confused with a formal dialogue. He told his party's council to analyze the circumstances in which technical and nonpolitical posts can be accepted in public administration. He said a specific party body should exist for this purpose.

He stressed the need to strengthen internal party unity and discipline so that the diversity and plurality that exists in the party will not harm the party's image, even if, he said, it has to pay the cost of giving the image of being intransigent. In this regard, Munoz Ledo said the PRD must maintain their determination in the face of the national problems so as to increase the citizens' credibility and confidence in the alternative for change the PRD offers. He issued an appeal in this regard to the party members and promised to revive the PRD's principles so as to maintain credibility:

[Begin Munoz Ledo recording] The PRD is not dividing or weakening, I tell you. We remain more faithful than ever to the political commitments we acquired when the party was founded. It is in that spirit that I plan to continue carrying out my functions. [end recording]

Within this context, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas has denied he will be a mediator in the armed conflict in Chiapas. He also has announced he will continue his independent efforts to find a political solution to the problem. The former PRD presidential candidate has said in an interview there is no clear invitation from the Mexican president to be mediator and to contribute to peace in the state. He said he does not have the trust of the authorities to do the job:

[Begin Cardenas recording] I do not believe I have the government's trust, nor do I trust the government; therefore, I could not represent the government in this case. I would not agree to be mediator. I will work to contribute to a peaceful solution of the Chiapas conflict so as to eliminate the danger of war for the country; this does not necessarily require me to be a mediator. [end recording]

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas has said no exact date has been set for his trip to Chiapas to hold a new meeting with the EZLN [Zapatist Army of National Liberation] leaders.

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Guatemala

President Outlines Achievements of Miami Summit

PA1212230594 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 12 Dec 94

[From the "Channel Seven News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidents of the United States and Central America yesterday signed the Central America-USA Agreement, represented by the acronym Concausa, which seeks to promote the sustainable development of the region. President Ramiro De Leon Carpio, who returned this evening to the country, outlined the achievements of the Summit of the Americas.

[Begin De Leon recording, in progress] ...the commitment of Concausa, which stands for the agreement between Central America and the United of States of America. That is what Concausa stands for: Central America-USA Agreement [Convenio Centro America-USA]. It is important because the foremost (?member) is the United States in this Alliance for Sustainable Development. This was a Guatemalan initiative, and I had the pleasure of presenting our initiative. It is now a Central American initiative, and it constitutes the framework for the new Central American agenda that was carried out without copying patterns foreign to our circumstances or characteristics—an initiative geared to strengthening democracy, peace, and reconciliation, all of which has been successfully put in motion.

To this effect, it is a model of sustainable development that requires the participation of not only all of society, but also the support of the international community. The most important thing is that support is already being given. The United States forms part of that community; it is the foremost member; and several other countries have offered to participate.

As for the subject of eliminating poverty, the document that has been signed says that from a political point of view it cannot be tolerated, and it says that from a moral point of view it is unacceptable that some sectors of our population are cast aside and do not fully enjoy the benefits of development. In this way, we committed ourselves to attaining social justice for all people in the Americas by eliminating poverty and illiteracy; attaining good quality education; improving health services; creating employment; strengthening the role of women, as I said earlier; and improving the situation of the Indian groups and their access to social services. All of this will be done within a process that historically began today when the Final Declaration and Plan of Action was signed. We have set our goal of attaining all of this by the year 2005.

I want to emphasize that the summit that concluded today represents progress for the Americas, Central America, and for Guatemala. [end recording]

Honduras

President Welcomes Results of Miami Summit

PA1212235294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2246 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Upon returning from Miami, Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina today said he is optimistic over the results of the Summit of the Americas, which was able to achieve a "spirit of struggle and understanding and marked the beginning of a phase of activities to be implemented for the sake of mankind."

Reina, who explained one of the three major issues at the continental meeting—namely, corruption—pointed out that his "human approach" economic policies accorded with what President Bill Clinton said about having governments that serve the people.

The Honduran president praised the Summit of the Americas' main goal of making the continent a large trade zone that will give smaller countries access to larger markets. He stressed the IMF's offer to help Honduras convince the Paris Club to forgive at least 50 percent of the $700 million debt owed to the Paris Club.

Reina, who during his political campaign pledged to allocate 30 percent of the state funds for social aid programs, said, "the IMF offer is a very encouraging news."

Reina Announces Regional Offer To Mediate Among Cubans

PA1312001094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2144 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Dec (DPA)—The Central American countries today offered to serve as mediators between the Cubans in exile and Fidel Castro's regime as a mechanism to resolve the island's internal problems. Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina made the announcement this afternoon upon returning from Miami where he participated in the Summit of the Americas.

Reina said that Esquipulas, in Guatemala, is the right venue to open talks between the Cubans on the island and those in exile. Esquipulas was the city in which the Central American peace talks began in the mid-1980's. The region's pacification was achieved through these talks. Now, Central America is on its way toward a process of integration.

Central America believes that a platform of reconciliation among Cubans is a mechanism that will help resolve the island's political problems, Reina said.

According to Reina, "Central America believes Cuba's problems must be analyzed outside the context of the Cold War. Therefore, it is offering its good offices to

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enable Cubans residing in the United States and those who live in the homeland to talk and put an end to their differences."

The Honduran president noted that at the summit, Argentine President Carlos Menem explained the position of the Cubans who live in Miami, who are urging the U.S. Government to put an end to Fidel Castro. In response to this, Reina said that the problem must not be viewed as a situation between the United States and Cuba, but as an impasse among Cubans, and, consequently, the Cubans themselves must resolve it.

He added that Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro proposed to her colleagues on the continent the suspension of the economic embargo against Cuba. Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo supported this proposal.

The Honduran leader reiterated the position of the Central American presidents to serve as mediators among the various Cuban groups. For this reason, he said, we met with liberal and social democratic leaders of Cuba.

Armed Forces Chief Views 'Meager' Budget

PA0912202194 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 7 Dec 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir yesterday described the situation in Honduras as difficult, because the political parties, which he believes are the backbone of democracy, are engaged in disagreements.

He said the people need to maintain confidence, adding that the political parties (Liberal and Nationalist) are fundamental to the consolidation and stability of democracy.

"Because these are political matters, we try to remain at a distance, and the news media should try to keep the peace—not feed the crisis but, instead, seek peace," Discua said.

Gen. Discua said the military is prepared for anything when referring to the fact that the Army can now also be accused of illegal enrichment in the public courts by the attorney general.

"A country in turmoil will never overcome underdevelopment, and a political crisis is dangerous," he added.

Meanwhile, he said the military is not inclined to release a great deal of information regarding what is going on within the institution; however, with the meager budget the Army currently has, it is very difficult to sustain the Armed Forces. Discua believes the Honduran Army has the lowest budget of all of the Armed Forces in Central America, but, despite this fact, it is trying to do the best it can.

He added that the Armed Forces, because they comprise fallible human beings, are subject to corruption, but he assured that the Armed Forces has mechanisms, such as auditing and payroll accounting, that make corruption very difficult.

"The situation, in every area, is very difficult for the entire institution, but efforts are being made, and when many of these problems improve, the whole country will improve," Discua said.

He believes that next year's economic outlook will be better, as some analysts have assured.

Discua returned recently from Puerto Rico where he participated in a number of conferences to define the Armed Forces' new role. Nongovernment representatives, the U.S. State Department, and Latin American military leaders attended the conference.

"We must preserve peace and respect human rights, and armies must prepare to maintain peace in cooperation with multinational forces," he said.

Noting that he was called on to talk about peace, he said that in his message he made it clear that peace is difficult to manage and must be the responsibility of all of society.

Saying that the military draft by lottery had been successful, he said it had not been tried before because previous governments had shown no political willingness to try it.

In conclusion, Discua said General Lazaro Melanio Avila Soleno, head of Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not appear before the courts to be interrogated, but to give testimony as a witness.

Central Bank Head 'Optimistic' About Recovery

PA1012034294 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Dec 94

[Interview with Hugo Noe Pino, president of the Central Bank of Honduras, by Cristobal Saucedo; place and date not given; from "The Morning Paper" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Saucedo] Hugo Noe Pino, president of the Central Bank of Honduras, is optimistic, despite the harsh economic crisis, the high inflation rate, and the country's 1.5 percent economic shrinkage.

[Pino] We are quite optimistic because the stabilization process is on course and certain results of that process are beginning to emerge. The reduction of the fiscal deficit, greater stability in the exchange rate, and the increased investment we are expecting in the public and private sectors will contribute to economic growth. Better coffee prices should stimulate that growth. I would like to point out something which I believe is quite important: Keep in mind that the government only includes in its budget 30 percent of what it receives in

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taxes from the coffee industry. The other 70 percent it puts in escrow. Therefore, we are not too concerned about the government's income. We are concerned about the benefits that higher prices would bring to the thousands of small farmers.

[Saucedo] As 1994 comes to a close, what plans does the government have for the economy in 1995?

[Pino] We plan to complete the macroeconomic stabilization process, which means we will continue with fiscal controls and efforts to stabilize the exchange rate and reduce the trade deficit. Then we plan to promote production significantly, particularly small and intermediate industry, through the Honduran Social Investment Fund [FHIS] and other social compensation programs such as [words indistinct] that have really had very little to work with. Another very important goal is the modernization of the state from the standpoint of public efficiency as well as judicial reform.

[Saucedo] The people are worried about the continued devaluation of the lempira; it is currently at 9.40 plus. Does the government have a specific parameter for this?

[Pino] That is definitely an important concern. However, we have to compare that with the annual 40 percent depreciation we saw during the first half of the year, which has now fallen to only 18 percent. Our goal is to see it below 10 percent in 1995. We are aware that the changing exchange rate has a significant effect on consumer prices, so we are reinforcing our currency sales, and the additional influx of foreign monies should help us to take control.

[Saucedo] How exactly are you reinforcing or modifying the system?

[Pino] We are reinforcing it in the sense that as we receive more funds from abroad, we are in a better position, as the Central Bank, to put all this money at the general public's disposal.

[Saucedo] I have noticed frustration in several sectors because the disbursements we will receive following the signing of our letter of intent will be used to pay the foreign debt. Almost nothing will be left for the country to continue its social programs.

[Pino] Part of it is for foreign debt payments, that is true, but another part will be invested in social programs. It is important to point out that the funds have just begun to arrive in December. This year has been a very difficult year in every sense. Income has been very low. The Honduran people will now have the opportunity to see the difference between this year and next year in social program spending.

[Saucedo] Can you give us any figures? How much will the letter of intent provide, and how much will be used for social programs?

[Pino] The figures depend on the progress of each project. We could, for example, say that we have received $28 million in the form of funds to replenish our reserves. In January we expect to receive $12 million from the IMF agricultural and energy loans, which could total $60 million. Then there are several projects that have already been approved and for which disbursements will depend on execution. We are looking at about $400 million over a period of two or three years.

[Saucedo] What is the current inflation rate? As you handle that figure at the Central Bank, how much should the minimum salary be? Unions and management alike always get their figures at the Central Bank.

[Pino] We are looking at approximately 22 percent as our average annual figure for 1994. I believe each sector's minimum salary negotiation should take the inflation rate percentage reported by the Central Bank.

[Saucedo] Could it be 22 percent?

[Pino] December is not over. I think we should calculate December to get the annual percentage.

[Saucedo] Why so low?

[Pino] No, no, that is not low; 22 percent is a high inflation rate.

Nicaragua

Japanese Aid To Seek To Improve Investment Conditions

PA0912143994 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Report by Erica Ramirez from the "National Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Japanese economic mission visiting the country stated during a meeting with President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro the aid from that country in the years to come will seek to improve the conditions for investment in Nicaragua:

[Begin unidentified Japanese delegation member recording] This country has a certain future. I believe foreign investments will also come and will increase; to that effect, it is important to upgrade the social and economic infrastructure as well as the democratic institutions. We believe our aid will be of great help toward that (?purpose). [end recording]

Japan has provided since 1990 a total of $218 million in aid earmarked for democratization and economic stabilization. The assistance has been characterized as emergency aid. The first Japanese mission of this type in Latin America outlined during its meeting with the economic cabinet its aid principles, which consists of not using the funds to finance military spending and respect for human rights. Nicaragua meets those conditions, the mission members have said. It became clear during a meeting with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo the

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Japanese will try to take a leap in terms of the quality of their aid by strengthening Nicaragua's social and economic structure:

[Begin Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger recording, in progress] ...to see how they can in a sustained manner through official assistance, meaning Japanese official foreign aid to Nicaragua can strengthen the country's infrastructure so that production and exports of the private sector can grow. [end recording]

The economic cabinet has drafted a report establishing the needs in areas such as health, education, employment, and road and bridge construction. These matters will be reviewed starting tomorrow in the meetings the mission will hold with the appropriate ministries.

Russian Investors To Continue INE Energy Project

PA0912155194 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Dec 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian investors will continue developing the San Jacinto Tifate Program despite the financial difficulties being faced by the INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy]. The first phase will get under way next year.

A Russian delegation met with officials from the Presidency and the INE to analyze next year's timetable for the San Jacinto Tifate geothermal project.

[Begin recording] [Russian Ambassador Yevgeniy Astakhov] We are on track to obtain financing and continue the project. I think [words indistinct] a firm step, and we are not concerned at all [words indistinct] the budget.

[Reporter] How much have you invested in this project?

[Astakhov] I would say a total of $174 million. [end recording]

Although work is advancing, the INE is facing financial difficulties that have prevented it from meeting all of its commitments.

[Begin INE Director Emilio Rappaccioli recording] We lack sufficient resources to carry out all of the projects we would like to, or to carry them out within a desired timeframe. Just as the INE's operational capacity has been hurt because of its lack of liquidity—something we hope to resolve before the end of the year—all of our investment programs have been hurt. [end recording]

The Russian ambassador said the first phase of the project will go into operation in June 1995. It will generate 50 megawatts.

The INE minister also announced electric power rationing has been suspended and that any blackouts that may occur could be linked to problems at a transmitter plant. Again, he reaffirmed that the energy blackouts are over.

Bomb Thrown at Cuban Embassy; Device Fails To Explode

PA1012201694 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1825 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Managua, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A police source has confirmed that a homemade bomb, which failed to explode, was thrown today by unidentified individuals at the Cuban Embassy in Nicaragua in southeastern Managua.

A Nicaraguan Police spokesman questioned by ACAN-EFE would only say that the incident is being investigated and that "there was no damage or victims." Without disclosing additional details, the police source added, "A patrol was sent to the site to conduct an investigation after we received a telephone call this morning."

Meanwhile, a security officer at the Cuban Embassy informed ACAN-EFE that police "arrived" at the embassy to investigate the incident. Weeks ago an explosion was reported near the Cuban Embassy, but it caused no damage. The embassy is located in southeastern Managua's luxurious "Las Colinas" neighborhood.

Drug Traffickers Unsuccessful in Opening Transit Route

PA1112035594 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Dec 94 p 8

[Report by Janelys Carrillo B.]

[FBIS Translated Text] International drug traffickers have not succeeded in opening this year in Nicaragua a transit route to move cocaine from the south to the countries of the north, according to a report released by the National Police.

In the final evaluation authorities made of the work done by the Narcotics Police in 1994, it was determined that between 1990 and 1993, the amount of seized cocaine totaled 1,550 kg, and in 1994 alone, that figure totaled 1,323 kg of the white powder.

Between January and October 1994 alone, 1,323 kg of cocaine were seized, surpassing the amounts registered between 1990-1993.

Nevertheless, two founders of the National Police hampered that work because they were involved in the drugs transaction the police foiled last Sunday [4 December], when Francisco Morales Centeno and Damaso Robelo tried to sell baking soda as cocaine to former EPS [Sandinist People's Army] soldiers Edwin Rivera and Anastacio Tellez.

Police Inspector Franco Montealegre declared that Lieutenants Efrain Brown Moncada and Rafael Antequera were in cohorts with civilians Morales and Robelo, who "were going to rip off" Rivera and Tellez.

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The officers were supposed to show up unexpectedly when the sale of the alleged cocaine, valued at 49,000 cordobas, was to be made so that "the purchasers" would flee in the presence of the policemen.

"That would allow the sellers to pocket the 49,000 cordobas and the $100 the purchasers would give them, and given this was a criminal action, they would not dare to file a report with the authorities," Montealegre affirmed.

Joint Operations

The success of the police in their struggle against drug trafficking was achieved, among other things, thanks to the participation of the Army and such agencies as the DEA and CICAD [Inter-American Committee for the Control of Drugs and Drug Abuse].

A new experience in these operations involved the use of air and maritime means, as well as helicopter assaults in the struggle against drug trafficking, means that were supplied by the Army.

Matagalpa, Leader in Marijuana

As for marijuana, the drug seizures amounted to an estimated 92,534 plants and 531 pounds of grass, which is double the aggregate total for the years 1990-1993 of 46,046 plants.

According to the reports, of the total marijuana seized in the country nationwide, Matagalpa came in first as the department with the most seizures.

A total of 998 people were arrested for drug-related offenses, of whom 680 are from Managua, 68 from Matagalpa, 48 from the RAAN [North Atlantic Autonomous Region], and 42 from the RAAS [South Atlantic Autonomous Region].

Authorities To Crack Down Against the Corrupt

Regarding internal measures, Commander Montealegre stated that the institution will not tolerate the tarnishing of the struggle against drug trafficking by the attitude of some policemen, adding authorities decided to file criminal charges against the aforementioned policemen.

Montealegre asserted that the two policemen involved in drug trafficking, Brown and Antequera, will be tried on different charges.

Montealegre explained that in the transaction, Morales and Robelo used Luis Chow Chacon, who lives in the area of Cruz Roja, as a middleman.

Panama

President Praises Miami Summit Results

PA1312043394 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0354 GMT 13 Dec 94

[From the "News Summary" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon his arrival today in Panama City, President Ernesto Perez Balladares described the Summit of the Americas as positive. The president of the Republic arrived tonight in Panama from Miami, where he attended the Summit of the Americas. He was received by most of his cabinet members at the airport, where he spoke on the results of the summit.

[Begin recording] [Perez Balladares] I think this has been a historic moment in which we have marked what we feel should be a new era in the future for Latin America, and particularly in the future of Latin America vis-a-vis the developed countries, and especially vis-a-vis the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

I believe it went beyond our expectations, especially when we established the procedures for a free trade zone by the year 2005. Although it seems very distant, it is actually very close when we consider all of the adjustments we have to make. This is especially true because much will have been achieved by the end of the century within the spirit of what was agreed there—that is, this path toward attaining that free trade area which will provide investments to our countries, and this in turn will generate jobs and fight poverty.

[Unidentified reporter] What did Panama achieve at this summit?

[Perez Balladares] I think that is one thing. We also have the City of Knowledge. In the very specific case of Panama, we presented this proposal, which was very well-received by all Latin American countries, as well as by the United States and Canada. I think this could be one of the actual uses we might give to the areas now being used by the military, particularly the areas of the military bases.

I also think it is very important to point out that all of the participants in the summit were united in their determination to fight corruption in all of our countries and at all levels. Of course, we also discussed the struggle against drug trafficking and money laundering. [end recording]

Chamber of Commerce Head on Free Trade Area Benefits

PA1212184794 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Dec 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce has expressed its satisfaction with the results of the Miami summit, mainly the creation of a Latin American free trade area, a commercial bloc that will benefit more than 34 countries of the continent. Panama would obtain numerous benefits according to Chamber of Commerce President Ricardo Duran. Nevertheless, he has said a number of changes must be made in our economy, such as our entry into GATT:

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[Begin Duran recording] It means for our service economy that this bloc will strengthen Panama's position as a center of distribution and redistribution of products. This is a confirmation of great interest of Latin American countries in intensifying their trade as a means to accelerating their development and to create more sources of employment. [end recording]

The efforts will begin next year through a series of meetings that will be dubbed the Miami Rounds, which have the objective of creating the largest free trade market in the world with more than 850 million people.

Commission To Prepare Establishment of 'City of Knowledge'

PA1212185294 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 12 Dec 94 p A-3

[Report by Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[FBIS Translated Text] The executive has created a high-level commission and a consultative council to prepare the establishment of the "City of Knowledge" at the U.S. military installations along the banks of the Panama Canal.

The high-level commission is comprised by Fernando Eleta Almaran, who chairs it, Executive Director Nuris de Sosa, Carlos Mendoza, president of the Interoceanic Region Authority, University of Panama Rector Gustavo Garcia Paredes, and Stanley Muschett, rector of Santa Maria la Antigua University.

The consultative council of this commission is comprised by Education Minister Pablo Thalassinos, Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo, and Economics Minister Guillermo Chapman.

President Ernesto Perez Balladares made this initiative public during his main speech at the Summit of the Americas before 33 hemispheric presidents who participated in the event.

This center of higher learning will be administered by a private, nonprofit foundation, and its inauguration is scheduled for September 1997.

Within the 500 hectareas are located the necessary installations to establish international centers of higher learning and specialized studies, open to students and professors from all corners of the world.

Fort Espinar To Revert in 1995; Land To Be Auctioned

PA1312152294 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately 140 hectares that are part of Fort Espinar will revert to Panama in 1995. It was also reported that the sale of the barracks that already reverted to Panama is expected to begin in 1995.

According to what EL SIGLO was able to learn, the state intends to transform Fort Espinar, which is where the School of the Americas used to be located, into a residential complex. Fort Espinar land will be divided up into plots, which will then be auctioned off.

A number of facilities such as a recreation center, a chapel, a food store, a motel, and a swimming pool are part of Fort Espinar's installations, which also include an underground warehouse used to store ammunition, family houses, dormitories, an elementary school, and a sewage treatment plant.

The main objective of the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) is to privately promote and manage all assets already reverted and those that will revert in the future, as stipulated in the Panama Canal Treaties, which Panama and the United States signed in 1977.

As the former "School of the Americas," which was an educational center that graduated a large number of Latin American military men who later became dictators in their own countries, reverts, Fort Davis will also revert. This reversion will take place in September or October 1995. It was learned that the two bases have 622 houses and that Fort Davis' installations will be rented.

Legislative Commissions To Investigate Rafters' Situation

PA1312150294 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 13 Dec 94 p 1A

[Report by Carlos Vargas and Arnulfo Barroso]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Legislative Assembly last night tasked the Foreign Relations and Human Rights Commissions with investigating the situation caused by the rafters; meanwhile, the United States has sent 900 additional troops to beef up security at the camps, which lodge almost 9,000 Cubans.

A legislative resolution appeals to the U.S. and Panamanian Governments to seek a prompt solution to the situation of the rafters and asks the members of the two commissions to submit a report to the legislature on their efforts.

Meanwhile, riot police and U.S. rangers broke in to Camp No. 3 yesterday to arrest 36 Cubans, who were identified as being the instigators of the disturbances. Now there are 600 Cubans under arrest. [passage omitted]

A group of rafters of Camps 1 and 3 charged that the Southern Command troops cut off telephone communications in the camps and are "constantly harassing them" in reprisal for the disturbances, which last week left a toll of 109 U.S. soldiers and 17 Cubans injured. [passage omitted]

Perez Balladares said the problem of the rafters can be resolved to the extent that they can hope to achieve their

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goal: They wanted to leave Cuba not to come to Panama, but to meet with their relatives in the United States.

Also, immigration officials in Paso Canoa announced yesterday the arrest of an alleged rafter who was trying to cross the border into Costa Rica.

The arrested Cuban will remain at the immigration office until his status is cleared up. Authorities of both countries have heightened security in this area to prevent any of the Cubans who escaped from the camp from crossing the border.

Report on President's First 100 Days in Office

PA1212205894 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Dec 94 p A-6

[Report by Juan Luis Batista]

[FBIS Translated Text] The new administration headed by Ernesto Perez Balladares was sworn into office this past 1 September amid high popularity and optimism following an election campaign that had as its main feature similarity in the candidates' platforms.

According to a recent poll by the consulting firm DICHTER & NEYRA, Perez Balladares' popularity at the beginning of his administration reached an estimated 90.5 percent, and a high degree of optimism was noticeable among those individuals polled.

Panamanians also felt quite optimistic about 1994. This observation was also evident in a poll by the Isthmian Foundation of Economic and Social Studies (FIEES), which has disclosed that 44.6 percent of Panamanians feel 1995 will be a much better year; in contrast, only 17 percent of the individuals polled in 1993 felt the same way about 1994.

The new administration has reached the 100-day mark, and practically all political opposition has disappeared given the current situation. Everything seems to indicate the labor unions, businessmen, political parties, and the people in general want to give the new president a freehand.

Besides the issue of the Cuban rafters, the pardons, the asylum granted to dictator Raul Cedras, and the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) issue, on which certain voices of protests were heard, political matters have gone quite well for Perez Balladares. Perez Balladares appears to have almost absolute control even in the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD). Certain differences have come up with his party members, particularly concerning political gains or opinions on certain issues, but the president's opinion is what counts in general.

The style of this presidential government is at its peak after a long dictatorship followed by five years of strong differences between the legislative and executive branches.

Perez Balladares has been criticized for trying to even erase the barriers between the state branches and autonomous institutions. He has defended this position by arguing we are now living in a new era of coordination among all the public officials.

Even though certain voices of opposition have been heard, as in all legislative branches, the Legislative Assembly has approved all officials proposed by the president of the Republic, including the comptroller general and the attorney general.

Although there have been certain divisions in the PRD's overwhelming majority, it has always acted according to the guidelines of the executive branch.

The assembly has approved laws such as the elimination of the Army and has made certain constitutional reforms with the approval of the constitutional title on the Panama Canal.

Laws were proposed on such issues as the basic law on education, the press law, and the law categorizing domestic violence as a crime, among others.

During his inauguration speech, the new president harshly criticized the previous government for allowing the underworld to take over the streets. A state of national emergency was declared, and the famous operation "Hard Hand With Courtesy" was staged. These measures were harshly criticized, because all citizens were assumed guilty. Nevertheless, independent polls published recently indicate people feel crime has decreased.

The government also has staged a "War Against Potholes," which consist of repairing the nation's deteriorated streets. At the same time, the Social Security Fund is carrying out a massive campaign, performing pending medical operations.

Another campaign routinely staged by the government, even through paid advertisements, is the marketing of its economic program. Although its authors assure the "Chapman Plan" is different from the "Ford Plan," according to former President Guillermo Endara, the two are the same.

Regarding the issue of justice, Jose Antonio Sosa was appointed the attorney general of the nation. Sosa promised to raise the credibility of the Attorney General's Office and will attempt to have a law passed at the assembly to speed up trials and make justice more effective. In addition, he has promised to make the administration of justice work more effectively, given only 27 hours a week are devoted to this sector.

Panama's international image has been quite positive since the 8 May elections. Perez Balladares ruled out the possibility of economic integration with the Central American group while he turned his eyes toward NAFTA. Panama was reintegrated into the Rio Group

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after a long period of negotiations several days after the new government took office.

Panama also has stepped up its efforts to become a GATT member, a requirement before joining NAFTA.

One of the first problems Perez Balladares had to face with international ramifications was the issue of the Cuban rafters.

Panama accepted the installation of 10,000 Cuban rafters at the U.S. military bases in the Canal area.

Several international artists have been taken to the camps to entertain the Cubans, who have expressed they feel like prisoners, as if they are living in concentration camps. The Cubans recently staged a massive escape that resulted in one dead, dozens wounded, and hundreds under arrest. Panama and the United States signed an agreement in which it was determined the rafters would only remain in the country for six months and that they could not leave the camps.

Another conflicting international issue was the asylum granted to Haitian dictator Raoul Cedras and to some of his associates.

Perhaps the strongest opposition Ernesto Perez Balladares has received stems from his own party. The issue of the appointments and the pressures for political gains within the government apparatus confronted the president with several of his party members. Nevertheless, Perez Balladares was able to place, at least in key positions, the individuals he chose despite the protests.

The granting of amnesties also caused friction, as certain sectors believe this was a strong blow to Panama's deteriorated image of justice. Perez Balladares said, however, he made this decision in favor of national reconciliation.

Another issue for which the president received harsh criticism is the ARI, where he is accused of attempting to control the institution that manages a multimillion dollar sum in assets. Nevertheless, the president assures he has the duty and right to be informed of the decisions made there.

The privatization or "corporation" of the National Telecommunications Institute was criticized by the workers. Notwithstanding, the institution's labor union made an about face in its concepts and accepted the new government's proposal.

Corruption is the issue that has been highlighted the most in Perez Balladares' administration. Surprisingly, one of his party members, legislator Mario Miller, was arrested and accused of extortion although Perez Balladares promised to combat corruption in his inauguration speech. The president requested Miller's ousting from the PRD immediately thereafter, a matter that was recently concluded.

This incident is also of interest,because the current president promised during his campaign to rescue the party's deteriorated image during the military dictatorship by assuming responsibility for the military's dirty work or as its political branch.

Besides, this is the first public case of corruption of a PRD member during Ernesto Perez Balladares' government. This situation could have tarnished or put the PRD's new era in doubt.

Seizure of Braswell Shipyard Termed 'Legal Aberration'

PA0912182994 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Dec 94 p 2A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[FBIS Translated Text] Braswell International Shipyard (ABI) has described the firm's sequestration by former PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] legislator Rigoberto Paredes as a "legal aberration." ABI sources disclosed that the Labor Ministry had appointed Paredes the "administrative depositary" in this case.

Paredes, former administrator of Balboa Shipyard, promoted the sequestration, alleging that the firm owes him $469,364. The Labor Directorate accepted the request.

ABI lawyer Jose Miguel Aleman, who appealed the request, told LA PRENSA that this is "a legal aberration," adding: "We expect Labor Minister Mitchel Doens to correct this situation, because the well-being of 300 workers, the enterprise itself, and the maritime industry are at stake."

Deputy Labor Minister Antonio Ducreaux met yesterday with representatives from both parties and urged them to find formulas of "agreement" to resolve the problem.

Aleman remarked: "Nothing has been resolved yet, but we are going to wait for the labor minister, as the next highest-ranking official over the director general of labor, to rule on the appeal."

Aleman said this is the first time, "as far as I have investigated," that the labor director has appointed a plaintiff as an administrative depositary.

He added: Usually, the assets are seized and the firm must administer them, and, on certain occasions, a Labor Ministry official is appointed as administrator.

Paredes claimed that, in this case, he is the "injured" party.

Meanwhile, LA PRENSA learned that the Colombian Embassy has expressed concern because La Gloria, a Colombian Navy vessel, is being repaired at the shipyard and is scheduled to be ready by 22 December, when it will take the Colombian president to Cartagena de Indias.

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It was also reported that ABI workers held a meeting in front of the ABI installations yesterday.

During yesterday's Legislative Assembly session, opposition legislator Alberto Cigarruista said, "The Assembly must look into acts of corruption and the ill-treatment of Panamanian firms."

He maintained: "The assembly must issue warnings to prevent the 'Rigobertos Paredes' of the world, and those who are not 'Rigobertos' but look just like them, from continuing to carry out their harmful activities in this country."

Employees: Owner Threatened

PA1012171994 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 Dec 94 p E-12

[Report by Aquilino Ortega Luna]

[FBIS Translated Text] Employees at the Braswell Shipyard, the firm confiscated by former PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] legislator Rigoberto Paredes, agreed yesterday to stage a symbolic work stoppage. They also denounced the fact that Elliot Braswell, owner of the firm, has received threats.

According to an employee spokesman who asked not to be identified, Braswell's residence has been attacked on several occasions, not for the purpose of robbery but to seize important company documents.

Meanwhile, Paredes, who has remained inside the company, said he is staying there "with an open mind and sure of what he is doing. Neither the U.S. invasion nor jail have softened me," he said. .

Paredes added that the only way the confiscation can be lifted is through the payment of the amount owed him.

U.S. diplomatic representatives yesterday visited the Braswell Shipyard to attempt to resolve the conflict.

Ricardo Solis, chief of security at Braswell, characterized Paredes' actions as an open attack on the economic stability of the shipyard's 200 employees.

"This confiscation is unfair because Mr. Paredes never worked for Braswell Shipyard. He was manager of the Balboa Shipyard," Solis said.

Meanwhile, Maria Centeno, a shipyard employee, said the confiscation conceals the hidden intention of expropriating the company from its legitimate owners.

"We do not understand how a person can confiscate a company for which he never worked," Centeno said.

Meanwhile, Ricardo Bell, Braswell's comptroller, said Paredes' action is an assault on the investment climate.

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Argentina

Menem Returns From Summit, Holds News Conference

PY1212131794 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1051 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM)--President Carlos Menem announced today that the United States might reconsider the IA-63 Pampa trainer in an international bid to supply 711 planes to the U.S. Navy and Air Force.

The president noted that "the Pampa issue is being reconsidered" by the U.S. organization that called the international bid. He said: "We shall see what happens within the next few days."

The president held a news conference early this morning, a few minutes after arriving from Miami where he participated in the Summit of the Americas.

Menem noted: "The organization that is working on this issue is currently meeting with those who will ultimately decide on the best plane for training U.S. Armed Forces pilots."

The president discussed the possibility of the U.S. Government mediating between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands conflict.

Menem explained: "Clinton's mediation, if it happens, will involve fishing and oil issues--not the sovereignty issue."

Nevertheless, Menem reconfirmed the Argentine Government goal of "recovering our sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands by the year 2000 or before."

Menem noted: "If the United Kingdom prospects for oil on its own, there might be difficulties on the Malvinas Islands issue." He pointed out, nevertheless, that these difficulties "may also be overcome through the talks that have already been opened."

Menem indicated: "We have a fishing agreement with the United Kingdom. We are complying with it. If they do not comply with it as far as the oil issue is concerned, we will be free as far as fishing quotas in the South Atlantic are concerned."

Menem described as "amply satisfactory" the results of the summit that ended in Miami yesterday.

Concerning the possibility of joining NAFTA, which comprises the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Menem said Argentina "is prepared" to join if "invited."

Menem explained that if Argentina is not invited, "we will continue to work hard within Mercosur [Common Market of the South], a market that involves more than 200 million consumers."

Within this context, Menem said "the imbalances that involve some products which gave rise to conflicts between Brazil and Argentina" will be resolved on 18 December in the Brazilian city of Ouro Preto.

Menem said: "Car production was a very hot issue for them, but it has already been resolved. We will have no problem signing the document on 18 December, and Mercosur will be implemented on 1 January."

Di Tella Rejects Reprisals Over Pampa Plane

PY1212151894 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2224 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (TELAM)--Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella today described the idea of reprisals by the Argentine Congress, over the disqualification of the Argentine-made "Pampa 2000" plane in a bid by the Pentagon as laughable.

Speaking from Miami for the La Red and America radio stations, the foreign minister emphasized: "This is laughable. Had we the facility for reprisals, I would accept it. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The foreign minister emphasized: "We must assess the situation because one does not participate in a bid, saying: Award me the contract or I will take reprisals."

Told that Miguel Angel Toma, the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee chairman, mentioned such a possibility, the foreign minister responded: "Well now, that was a bit odd."

Last weekend Toma said: "There are various bills--including the patents bill--that the lower house must discuss, bills involving the economic interests of those who have just hurt us" by rejecting the "Pampa 2000" plane.

Di Tella also confirmed that during a scheduled meeting with his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton, Menem "plans to discuss," among other issues, the "Pampa" situation.

Di Tella emphasized: "U.S. decisionmaking mechanisms are fairly complicated because they involve many agencies. Thus, to change this decision is even more complicated."

Di Tella announced he would meet privately with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 10 December and Deputy Foreign Minister Talbott [title as received] on 12 December.

Menem Compares Castro to Argentine Dictators

PY1212191794 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1406 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM)--President Carlos Menem today compared Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba with the dictatorships that governed Argentina.

Menem noted that "Justicialism was proscribed for 25 years" during the 1955-1973 and 1976-1983 de facto

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government periods. He added: "Commander Castro has been governing Cuba for 36 years against the will of his people."

In response to a question posed by Radio 990, Menem emphasized: "I ask myself about the difference between the Cuban dictatorship and the dictatorships that we endured in Argentina; for example, the difference between [former President General] (Alejandro) Lanusse and Fidel Castro."

The president noted: "During Lanusse's period, I was totally proscribed." He explained that this general "was a habitual coupist who was always forging coups, who was always plotting; and that is the way he ended."

Menem also criticized the way some media are dealing with the Cuban regime. He pointed out: "It is difficult to believe that other dictatorships have been so strongly opposed in Argentina, and now no one dares to tell things the way they are on the Caribbean island."

Menem also described as "wonderful and touching" his meeting with the Cuban exiles in Miami. He confirmed that "I personally have absolutely nothing" against Fidel Castro; "quite the contrary."

Menem noted: "There are about 2 million Cubans living in exile. (In Miami) I talked with many people who, with tears in their eyes, were telling me that when one of their relatives dies, they do not have any possibility of entering the island."

Opposition Criticizes Menem on Remarks

PY1212192494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2029 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (NA)—Grand Front leader Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez and former Radical Civic Union [UCR] Deputy Cesar Jaroslavsky today harshly criticized President Carlos Menem for his remarks about the situation in Cuba.

Alvarez said that Menem was a "demagogue" and an "agitator" for telling Cuban exiles who oppose Fidel Castro's government that he would give his "life" in exchange for Cuba's democratization.

Jaroslavky stated that Menem's meeting with Cuban exiles was unfortunate, adding that the Argentine chief executive "defied the principle of self-determination of the peoples."

Alvarez indicated that "the president has done wrong by acting like some kind of agitator for people who bear strong grudges against Fidel Castro's regime." Speaking to a radio station, Alvarez added: "It does not seem to be the right way to help Cuba become democratic."

The Grand Front leader also said: "All the Americas want Cuba to have a pluralist and multiparty democracy." He added that democracy should come to Cuba, "but not the way the worst enemies (of Fidel Castro's government) want, nor because of an international boycott, because that is not the way to solve things; it simply makes things more difficult for Cuban society."

Asked about Menem's remark that he would be "prepared to give his life" in exchange for democracy in Cuba, Alvarez said: "This remark is pure demagoguery." He added: "We must help Cuba to have more freedom, so that the people can elect those who will govern them, but we must be careful not to side with the more fanatical and fundamentalist groups."

Jaroslavsky lamented "the president's rapprochement toward exiles who have taken their fortunes out of Cuba to the United States." He said: "I am deeply sorry to see President Menem defying a key principle such as the people's right to self-determination, because the people and men should be respected as such."

Jaroslavsky said that he will wait "to see what the Argentine people think about Fidel Castro when he visits Argentina in October 1995." Jaroslavsky, who is Horacio Massaccesi's presidential campaign manager, added: "We would never tolerate foreign intervention, and the Cubans deserve the same respect."

Buenos Aires UCR leader Felipe Figuerero stated: "Instead of offering to trade his life for Cuba's freedom, President Menem should focus on Argentina's problems." He added: "We are not asking the chief executive to shed his blood for Argentina, but to strain his brain in the quest for credible solutions to the problem of unemployment."

Di Tella Denies U.S. Mediation in Falklands Oil Issue

PY1212142594 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2224 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Report by unidentified special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Miami (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella today warned that unless an agreement is reached between the United Kingdom and Argentina over oil prospecting in the Malvinas Islands, Argentina will implement a number of legal measures and objections against the involved oil companies.

Di Tella emphasized: "Unless we reach a reasonable agreement with the United Kingdom over the oil issue, we may change the hydrocarbons law to prevent private companies operating in the Malvinas Islands area from operating in Argentina."

Di Tella said this during a news conference in Miami today after the Summit of the Americas in which 34 heads of continental governments participated.

The foreign minister emphasized this afternoon: "There is no proposal or possibility" that the U.S. Government will mediate between Argentina and the United Kingdom on the current stagnation in the negotiations, "nor has it been included on any agenda."

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Di Tella thus denied reports in Buenos Aires newspapers, speculating that President Carlos Menem had asked the U.S. President to mediate. [passage omitted]

Commission Formed To Probe Falklands Crimes

PY1212203394 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2205 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (TELAM)—Congressional sources today reported that the Chamber of Deputies Defense and Foreign Relations Committees have approved the formation of a national commission to probe alleged war crimes committed during the Malvinas Islands conflict.

The proposal was raised by Deputy Angel D'Ambrossio (UCR) [Radical Civic Union] through a bill that could be reviewed by the lower house after 13 December.

If the proposal is approved, the national commission would be subordinated to the Defense Ministry, and would be made up of 11 members, four of whom will represent the Defense Ministry, Justice Ministry, Interior Ministry, and the Supreme Court of Justice. The commission will also include three retired Armed Forces senior NCO's and four congressional representatives with the participation of minority parties.

The bill approved by the Defense and Foreign Relations Committees establishes that the national commission will receive reports and evidence on crimes committed during the Malvinas war, and will investigate the whereabouts of the people involved in the investigation in order to hear their testimony.

The committees' bill also explains that the commission will report to the courts any attempt "to thwart its functions, and will issue a final report, including a detailed explanation of the events, within 180 days after its establishment."

The Malvinas war crimes were initially reported by British Corporal Vincent Bramley in his book *A Tour of Hell.*

In November 1993, an Argentine investigative commission—chaired by Bishop Norberto Martina—drew up a report on alleged killings of Argentine soldiers at the hands of British officers based on testimonies supplied by relatives and war veterans.

Following this report, the British "Scotland Yard" began to investigate the reports, but decided against judging the British soldiers because there was not enough evidence.

Menem Leads, Massaccesi Gains Ground in Polls

PY1212175594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1456 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Dec (NA)—While voters still prefer President Carlos Menem by a clear margin, Radical Civic Union [UCR] presidential candidate Horacio Massaccesi is gaining strength and ground.

A Graciela Romer and Company survey carried out between 3 and 6 December shows that 38.6 percent would vote for Menem while 27.5 would vote for Massaccesi.

Third comes Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez with 17.2 percent. This means Alvarez has lost the second place which, according to earlier surveys, he held before the UCR convention.

Even further back is Aldo Rico, the leader of the Movement for Independence and Dignity, with 3 percent, and Senator for Corrientes Province, Jose Antonio Feris, with 1.6 percent.

The rest of the candidates together have 1.7 percent, while 10.4 percent of the voters remain undecided.

Election Day Established: 14 May 1995

PY1212195394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1802 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (NA)—The national executive branch today officially established 14 May 1995 as election day for the president and vice president who will be installed on 8 July 1995.

Through decree No. 2167, released at the Government House, the same date was established for the election of national deputies, who will replace those deputies whose terms of office end on 10 December 1995.

The decree was signed by President Carlos Menem and Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf.

Cavallo Views Fiscal Difficulties, Budget

MS1312103094 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 13 Dec 94 p 7

[Report on interview with Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo by David Pilling; date and place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Argentina will overcome its temporary fiscal difficulties to produce balanced budgets both this year and in 1995, said Mr Domingo Cavallo, the economy minister.

Mr Cavallo, in an interview, hinted that foreign banks and investors had overreacted to "early warning signals" of a third-quarter deficit, provoked largely by "inertial increases" in social security spending. Stocks and bonds have been depressed since Mr Cavallo announced in October that there would be a deficit, while some international bankers have questioned Argentina's commitment to continued fiscal discipline.

"Far from being frightened, bankers should be happy to see that the economy minister will go into battle with the

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national Congress—with the absolute backing of the president—precisely in order to avoid future deficits," he said. "We have already taken action in 1994 and are pushing for legislative changes with a budgetary impact in 1995 so that deficits do not recur."

Mr Cavallo last month banned all new state spending for the rest of the year, with the aim of saving $1.3 bn [billion], and introduced legislation to limit further increases in social security spending, which already makes up nearly half the federal budget.

He is also pushing for broader powers to control Argentina's purse strings, entitling him to cut government jobs, merge state bodies and to sell off more state concerns without consulting Congress. Although congressmen have refused to discuss these proposals as part of the 1995 budget package, as Mr Cavallo had wanted, the measures will be re-introduced early next year and may even be forced through by presidential decree.

Mr Cavallo admitted, however, that two years of big budget surpluses, helped by the privatisation of most state assets, were probably over. "We are now resigned to having (merely) balanced budgets in both 1994—which is about to end—and in 1995."

But, "that is to say, there will be no deficit". Argentina was "one of the few countries of the world that has fiscal equilibrium".

On the question of high unemployment, another potential concern for foreign investors and domestic voters alike, Mr Cavallo said he would not "dare to make predictions". Many economists believe that the jobless rate, which may be as high as 13 per cent could creep up further as companies intensify efforts to become more productive.

Mr Cavallo said that reforms of Argentina's antiquated and inflexible labour laws were vital if structural unemployment were to be defeated. Although jobs were being created at an annual rate of 1.3 to 1.5 per cent, the number of job seekers—swelled largely by immigrants and women joining the labour force, according to Mr Cavallo—had risen at more than double that pace.

The problem "is clearly not lack of growth" given that the economy had expanded by 33 per cent since 1990. But, during this time, the job pool had only grown by 5.5 per cent because small and medium companies—which in normal circumstances rely more heavily on labour—"have been discouraged from creating new jobs because of the complexity... and high costs associated with labour norms".

Legislation to make labour more "flexible" would be passed in relation to companies with fewer than 50 workers and later extended to the whole labour market, he said. Reforms would seek to make hiring and firing easier, to reduce the role of collective bargaining and to amend legislation on compensation for accidents at work, which the government says is open to abuse.

Reforms were part of a three-pronged approach that would also include an intensification of job retraining, especially for youth, and the launch of labour-intensive public works programmes. To fund these, the government would advance with cost-cutting state reforms at federal, provincial and municipal level, he said.

"You have to bear in mind that these reforms may themselves lead to job cuts. Therefore, it is probable that this strategy will achieve a change in the structure of employment in favour of more jobs in the productive sector," he said.

But Mr Cavallo said training and public works programmes could not of themselves tackle the root causes of unemployment. To achieve this, Congress would have to amend labour laws, he said. "However much training and retraining we do, if labour reforms are not passed—at least for small and medium companies—then it will be difficult for employment to grow vigorously."

Brazil

Cardoso Notes 'New Era' Following Summit

PY1212155194 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Brazilian representatives, the Summit of the Americas—which concluded yesterday in Miami—has played a decisive role in promoting the discussion of issues affecting the hemisphere and in reaffirming Brazilian leadership in international affairs.

Following the signing of the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action, which is considered to be the first step toward creating a free trade area among countries of the Americas by the year 2005, the 34 heads of state and government conveyed their gratitude to U.S. President Bill Clinton for his initiative. Reporter Douglas Defelice has more:

[Begin recording] [Defelice] President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso believes that the summit yielded positive results.

[Cardoso] I would merely say that we are living in a new era because the step taken at the hemispheric level is a very important one. It also shows that if Brazil does not come up with answers it will face risks. The Brazilian Government will have to support technological development and provide financial facilities for our businessmen so that we can compete in the 10 years remaining before 2005. This is why I believe we are going through a new era in which the true miracle in Latin America does not stem from the economy, but from democracy. Despite poverty, our peoples will continue to believe in democracy, and this is a good sign.

[Defelice] President Itamar Franco accepted an invitation to dedicate the commercial sector of the Brazilian Consulate in Miami. In a brief speech, Franco said he

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was excited at having the chance to turn the government over to Fernando Henrique Cardoso within the framework of a transition that conforms to the rule of law. He admitted that there are still problems, such as poverty, but he expressed his confidence that the future president will reverse this situation.

Franco sent a message to those who did not believe in the Real Plan. The plan has already succeeded, he said, a tangible proof of which is the public support for it.

In remarks to reporters, Franco denied reports that the government is considering changing the monetary exchange rules by the end of December. He said it will be incumbent upon the next government to address this issue. Franco also commented on the Summit of the Americas.

[Franco, in progress] ...in the continent, we will obviously take advantage of opportunities Brazil has long identified. Thus, we endorse the idea of a free trade area in South America and attach great interest to the negotiations to be held from now on. We of course already proposed the creation of a free trade area in South America, which is being discussed and studied by other countries. We also have other ideas designed to promote competition. Thank you. [end recording]

Franco left Miami for Washington where he was to sign an agreement on tourism and confer with President Clinton at the White House.

Foreign Minister Discusses Summit Preparations

PY0912202994 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 7 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Maria-Helena Tachinardi in Brasilia]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "four plus one consultation mechanism," which unites the four Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries and the United States, will be revitalized during the Americas Summit. The foreign ministers of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay will meet on 9 December to discuss hemispheric integration with U.S. Trade Secretary Ron Brown and Special Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. This marks a new stage in the "four plus one" mechanism, which was established in 1991 and has been practically deactivated since then.

A few days before the Americas Summit, Itamaraty Secretary General Roberto Abdenur, who negotiated the Action Plan and the Presidents' Declaration (the only two documents the 34 chiefs of state and of government will sign on the morning of 11 December), said the two texts represent a victory for Brazilian diplomacy because Itamaraty managed to get approved exactly what the country wanted. Abdenur said: "Brazil has maintained a well-centered position," as head of the Rio Group, "and obtained good results."

Brazil managed, for example, to avoid the inclusion of any reference to links between trade, labor, and environment clauses in the declaration by not accepting new conditions "that serve protectionist barriers."

Abdenur said: "We also managed to get the summit to adequately recognize a concept of development based on democracy." While the U.S. Government only wanted to speak of sustained development, "Brazil came up with innovative suggestions like the proposal to protect human rights through programs financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which was accepted."

The political declaration, which lists principles and commitments, has five parts that deal with the strengthening of democracy in the region, the promotion of common prosperity through hemispheric integration, ways to combat poverty, sustained development, and the creation of a forum to give continuity to the Miami summit. "We are pleased to have attained a point in common between the proposals made by the Rio Group and those made by the United States," Abdenur said.

Supreme Court Decision Acquits Former President

PY1212215794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1940 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Report by Ricardo Balthazar and Rosa Costa]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia, 12 Dec (AE)—The Federal Supreme Court (STF) today acquitted former President Fernando Collor de Mello and businessman Paulo Cesar [PC] Farias, both charged with passive corruption. By five votes against three, the majority of Supreme Court members concluded that there is not enough evidence to sentence Collor. PC Farias, who has for the past year remained in a prison cell at the headquarters of the Anti-Riot Military Police Battalion in Brasilia, may be released. Farias remained in detention only because of the STF trial.

Former STF President Otavio Gallotti and Justices Ilmar Galvao, Moreira Alves, Celso de Mello and Sydney Sanches—who presided over the trial against Collor in the Senate in 1992, at the end of the impeachment process—voted in favor of Collor's acquittal. They believe there is no evidence that the money Collor received was the product of corruption. Justices Sepulveda Pertence, Carlos Velloso, and Neri da Silveira voted against the acquittal of Collor.

Collor continues to be banned from running in elections for public posts until 2000 as a consequence of the punishment imposed on him by the Senate two years ago. In any case he still faces other court cases. In practice, his acquittal by the STF today is a condemnation of the work done by Attorney General Aristides Junqueira who was responsible for the charges.

The five justices who acquitted Collor believe that Junqueira did not obtain evidence capable of demonstrating that the former president carried out actions in

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exchange for money from PC Farias to pay his personal expenses. "It is a triumph for democracy," said Collor's lawyer Evaristo de Morais Filho. "First, because he managed to take a former president to trial, and second, because the trial was serious."

Even the three justices who ruled against Collor admitted in their judgments the fragility of the charges, which took into consideration only one of the charges raised by the plaintiff: the $123,000 aid paid by PC Farias for the election campaign of former Deputy Sebastiao Curio. The money was obtained from the Brazilian branch of the Mercedes-Benz Company, which gave $1.1 million to PC Farias, who then sought Curio a little after Curio had asked Collor for help. [passage omitted]

Drug Money Remittances Total $1 Billion Yearly

PY1212135094 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Nov 94 p C1

[Article by Vannildo Mendes]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia—Brazilian drug traffickers send abroad $1 billion annually. This is more than the entire foreign direct investments in the country in 1993 ($877 million). The amount sent by traffickers is the third largest illegal remittance abroad. Drug remittances abroad are less than those stemming from tax evasion and corruption, but greater than the proceeds from electoral campaigns, the numbers game, the arms trade, and other illegal activities.

Federal Revenues Secretariat and Federal Police [PF] sources have said Brazil loses nearly $4 billion annually in illegal remittances of foreign currency by tax evaders, corrupt individuals, drug traffickers, and dirty money laundering. Some drug money returns to the country to finance the production and distribution of drugs.

Fictitious companies here and abroad are involved in this two-way operation, which requires the connivance of money exchangers to make transfers and to establish partnerships with multinational banking institutions. Last week, in response to a petition by a court in the Hague, the Federal Supreme Court (STF) authorized the seizure of documents, the interrogation of employees, and the lifting of bank secrecy in the case of Casa Piano, the third largest money exchange in Rio de Janeiro. The Netherlands court said a number of checks bearing Casa Piano's stamp were found in the accounts of two traffickers.

Police official Getulio Bezerra dos Santos of the PF Drug Enforcement Division has said money laundering is so complex and expensive that traffickers consider it an even worse problem than manufacturing and distributing the drugs. Santos said: "In each laundering operation, the money leaves traces."

He said money laundering is the most difficult stage for the police to control in light of the powerful structures and interests at stake. Remittances are usually made by fictious companies legally registered in Brazil to another fictitious companies abroad.

Most remittances are made through the parallel dollar market in the form of deposits in accounts abroad. Other amounts are sent via exchange mechanism for tourism or under Circular Letter No.5, the CC5, issued by the Central Bank to enable Brazilians residing abroad to have foreign accounts.

Santos said that in the United States the money confiscated from traffickers is used to modernize and to expand police facilities to fight the organized crime. He added: "Drug enforcement operations yield profits there and we must follow this capitalist approach."

Chile

NAFTA Invitation Termed 'Summit Promise'

FL1212150294 Bridgetown CANA in English 2150 GMT 11 Dec 94

[From CANA's broadcast news summary 11 Dec]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Canada, Mexico and the United States invited Chile to join the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] on Sunday saying its pioneering free market reforms made it an ideal business partner.

Leaders of the three NAFTA countries issued the invitation to Chilean President Eduardo Frei at a special ceremony after the closing session of the three-day Summit of the Americas in Miami.

President Bill Clinton said the invitation to Chile was proof Western Hemisphere leaders intended to keep their summit promise of creating a giant trade zone stretching from Alaska to Argentina by the early years of the next century.

The first step will be taken next week when representatives of the three NAFTA nations meet behind closed doors to decide what form Chile's accession to the treaty should take.

Long, Arduous Debate Over NAFTA Foreseen

PY1212175394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0821 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, 12 Dec (EFE)—Chile becoming a member of NAFTA—as officially announced at the end of the Americas Summit—will be the subject of a long and arduous debate. Several national groups have already expressed reservations or open rejection to this initiative.

The euphoria expressed at the official level and by main business organizations has been unable to silence the

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dissident voices that for disparate reasons are against the idea of Chile subjecting itself to NAFTA's labor and environmental regulations.

Unions grouped in the United Labor Confederation (CUT), as well as ecological and indigenous groups, have launched campaigns against joining NAFTA because they alleged it is a definitive turnabout to a free market economic system, which they have been trying to change for a long time.

The CUT last week severed the Social Pact it has maintained with the government for four years. It also withdrew from the tripartite commissions that comprise government and business representatives studying labor legislation for the eventual implementation of amendments in favor of workers' interests.

The CUT has also withdrawn from the so-called "Production Development Forum" in which government, businessmen, and labor representatives develop specific projects to improve the training and production of workers, which are believed to be key issues to improve the competitiveness of the Chilean economy.

One of the issues that resulted in the CUT's withdrawal was the exclusion of labor groups from the NAFTA negotiations decision-making process. The CUT is headed by Manuel Bustos, a veteran unionist of President Eduardo Frei's Christian Democratic Party.

Bustos said that if Chile joins NAFTA it will be impossible to reform the labor legislation inherited from the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990). This legislation is believed to be harmful to the interests of Chilean workers, of whom only 10 percent are organized in labor unions.

Ecological organizations have also flatly rejected Chile's membership of NAFTA, which comprises the United States, Canada, and Mexico. They say the country's national resources, and therefore its ecosystems, will be subject to depredation by large multinational companies which will surely install themselves in Chile after NAFTA is achieved.

Indigenous groups believe they will lose their right to own property, their main source of culture and identity as a nation, in view of the danger of being absorbed by realities that are foreign to their ancestral traditions.

In business there are some who view with mistrust the government's efforts to join NAFTA, among them the agricultural producers who supply the domestic market.

They fear that under NAFTA the fixed prices that protect traditional products, such as wheat, beet, corn, and dairy products, will disappear.

The government has designed a dialogue strategy with all groups to help them understand the importance of Chile joining NAFTA.

Government: Interests 'Safeguarded'

PY1212181994 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has stated that the interest of all Chileans will be duly safeguarded when Chile joins NAFTA, and dismissed criticism by the CUT [United Workers Confederation] of this free trade agreement.

[Begin recording] [Vice President Carlos Figueroa] I think they are completely mistaken to criticize our joining NAFTA. This is stated in the government's official declaration. It is a great opportunity for Chile and, especially, for Chilean workers. It is also an opportunity to resolve the serious problems within Chilean society; therefore I think they are mistaken.

[Minister Secretary General of Government Jose Joaquin Brunner] Regarding this specific aspect of NAFTA, the CUT has voiced its disagreement. The government, interpreting the feeling of the majority of the Chilean citizens, will continue to promote it and hope to convince the CUT of the need for Chile to be present in all international markets.

[Labor Minister Jorge Arrate] We must take advantage of the best conditions to negotiate a good international trade agreement and at the same time adopt all political and public measures, laws, social agreements that will allow us to distribute the results that the commercial-economic integration may generate fairly among all Chileans. In this regard the government agrees with the CUT's main concern. [end recording]

Coalition, Rightists Satisfied

PY1212193394 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Coalition of Parties for Democracy, as well as the rightist sector, have voiced their satisfaction over the fact that Chile has finally been asked to join NAFTA.

[Begin recording] [Christian Democratic Party President Alejandro Foxley] Yesterday's announcement does not mean that Chile has already joined NAFTA, but rather that negotiations with the NAFTA member countries are going to start. But what is also necessary is that the U.S. Congress approve fast track treatment for the approval of what is negotiated by the three member countries with Chile. In this sense I believe the Chilean Chamber of Deputies and Senate should adopt a very active role together with their U.S., Canadian, and Mexican counterparts to create a climate, at a parliamentary level, favorable to the approval of the fast track system.

[Independent Democratic Union, UDI, Deputy Juan Antonio Coloma] This process should be adopted as a state policy, with a sense of nationalism, listening to the opinion of all Chilean sectors, and trying to obtain the support of as many professionals and experts as possible.

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The UDI offers the government its cooperation to make this issue a subject that will be tackled regardless of political leanings.

[National Renewal Party leader Pedro Daza] As long as we carry out good negotiations, NAFTA will undoubtedly result in an increase of job opportunities. I believe that NAFTA, in sum, is beneficial not only for businessmen but also for the entire country. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Discusses Plans for Cuban Ties

PY1212130594 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 6 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza yesterday announced there will probably be "news" about the normalization of diplomatic relations with Cuba early next year.

Insulza denied, however, that the government is thinking of a prompt resolution in this regard.

The Chilean foreign minister said: "As I told the president of the Republic, it (the resumption of bilateral relations) will happen normally at the opportune moment. Right now we are studying the subject and hope to have news early next year."

Returning from Asia recently, President Frei told the media that the resumption of relations in the short term was not on his agenda.

Chile and Cuba broke diplomatic relations in September 1973 as a result of the military coup.

Argentine Foreign Minister Views Glaciers Issue

PY1212140094 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 3 Dec 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday in Santiago, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said he hopes the Argentine Congress will ratify the agreement on the South Continental Glaciers next year.

He said this during a news conference at the Foreign Ministry Red Hall after the signing of a document to promote and protect investments between the two countries.

Di Tella returned from Mexico aboard the same plane which brought President Eduardo Frei from the inauguration of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo.

Answering reporters' questions, the Argentine foreign minister admitted that the Argentine Government "has initially recommended and expressed its political desire for the approval of said treaty."

Di Tella said they were impatient and have several times noted that a decision should be made as soon as possible.

He added: "We also agree that the legislative branch, as an independent body, must take the time it deems necessary."

Di Tella said the government of President Carlos Saul Menem feels "this must take place as soon as possible next year."

French Minister Confirms Interest in Investing

PY1212135894 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p C10

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jose Rossi, the French industry, post, telecommunications, and foreign trade minister, has said public and private French sectors will invest in infrastructure projects in Chile.

The French secretary of state, who ended his visit to Chile yesterday, told Chilean Public Works Minister Ricardo Lagos about French interest in the concessions system for projects to build roads, highways, airports, ports, and the use of river basins.

He said the projects within the Bio-Bio river basin are of special interest. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Rules Out Customs Tariff Cuts

PY1212203494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Dec 94 p B2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat has ruled out an immediate or short-term reduction in customs tariffs, although he pointed out his full support for the exchange modifications implemented by the Central Bank as of 30 November.

The new regulations have led to a drop in the dollar rate by more than 4 percent, prompting various reactions in the business sector, which has noted the need to adopt supplementary measures seeking to make more flexible the outflow of dollars for investments abroad.

Except for agriculture and industry, representatives of other activities have pointed out the need to reduce the general tariff rate, which is 11 percent today.

Aninat has called for greater prudence and maturity on this issue, noting that almost 100 percent of the initiatives the Finance Ministry could adopt are of a structural nature, and not because of the situation.

"Most of them, for instance, would require a law. Consequently, we are not in favor of putting a finger into the computer every time there is a sign of a storm, or adopting macro-adjustments because of the situation. We are, however, in favor of taking initiatives that will create a good link or bridge with this country's medium and long term plans."

He said that the Finance Ministry has always studied what can it do to give its support. "We are not in favor of hasty or febrile measures. The important thing is to see the work the Central Bank is doing, and finally to determine the cause of the exchange flow that is taking place."

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According to him, the opinions given over the past few days by businessmen on the exchange measures are transitory, given the fact that when the exchange rate is changed it produces initially a significant impact on most exporters.

For the time being only the initial impact of the measures are being discussed, although according to Aninat it will be very interesting to listen to the opinions on the progress of the Chilean economy in March, April, or June, because it is not possible to evaluate in a few days the effect of the Central Bank measures. [passage omitted]

PDC Admits Lack of Coordination With Government

PY1212133194 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Dec 94 p C2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] national council yesterday voiced support for its national leadership headed by Alejandro Foxley in light of recent criticisms against him. The PDC council admitted, however, the great lack of coordination over decisions taken by the government and the party.

A large portion of the council meeting was devoted to discussing the current political situation.

It was agreed that criticisms against the PDC leadership—just 100 days after it took office, over an alleged lack of leadership and internal disputes—are unfounded. The meeting also assessed the role of the PDC leadership in efforts to solve social conflicts.

It was stated that the PDC must make a greater effort in issues of a priority interest for society.

PDC Vice President Jorge Pizarro pointed out one priority issue: To generate the conditions for granting the people better opportunities, especially in improving levels of education, and training programs for youths. [passage omitted]

President Approves Air Force High Command

PY1212150094

[FBIS Editorial Report] Santiago LA TERCERA in Spanish on 30 November on page 7 carries an approximately 550-word report by Hernan Garcia M.C. on the list of promotions and assignments proposed by Air Force, FACh, Commander General Ramon Vega, which has been approved by President Frei.

The report states that on 1 January FACh Inspector General Jose de la Fuente; Air Brigade General Carlos Infante, the FACh attache to Washington; FACh Engineer Commander General Arthur Clark; and FACh Administration Director General Nelson Maturana will retire. FACh Colonels Ricardo Bermudez, Alejandro Huerta, Antonio Aparicio, and Paulino Villafaena will be promoted to the rank of general.

The report states that the following will be the members of the 1995 FACh high command: General Ramon Vega, commander; General Fernando Rojas, FACh chief of staff; General Jaime Estay, FACh inspector general; General Maximo Venegas, FACh personnel commander; General Raul Tapia, chief of the national defense staff; Brigade General Carlos Alvarez, FACh attache to the United States; Brigade General Enrique Montealegre, operations director; Brigade General Leon Dufey, commander of the Third Brigade in Puerto Montt; Brigade General Florencio Duble, logistic commander; Brigade General Oscar Boronig, commander of the 2d Air Brigade and commander of the FACh garrison in Santiago; Brigade General Gonzalo Miranda, aeronautics director; Brigade General Egidio Machuca, commander of the 1st Air Brigade in Iquique; Brigade General Eitel Von Muhlenbrock, 4th Air Brigade in Punta Arenas; Brigade General Marcos Meirelles, intelligence director; Brigade General Ricardo Bermudez, social welfare director, and Brigade General Alejandro Huerta, training director.

General Antonio Aparicio is the new engineers corps commander, and General Paulino Villafaena is the new administrations director.

Navy Chief: Personnel Leaving for Better Pay

PY1212165494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p C7

[Article by Hernan Cisternas Arellano]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Valparaiso—Navy Commander Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch yesterday termed painfully true the fact that expert Navy personnel are leaving because of the economic prospects and better salaries they find in civilian companies.

He said negotiations are under way to retain them, especially as they are human and technical resources necessary for the Chilean Navy's modernization plans.

Martinez Busch said the Navy is trying to improve the situation and alleviate its personnel through initiatives that will fulfill the family's needs for housing, children's education, and health.

He said these are not permanent solutions, but they will help to improve the administration of personnel resources.

The Navy commander discussed this subject, among other issues, during a news conference yesterday at the Navy Center of Events, where the corps of Admirals have been holding a Naval Council since 30 November. This meeting will end today. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Peasants Protest Fumigation Operations

PA1212162594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Report by Chelo Garcia; from the "Cripton Newscast"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The situation of public order in San Jose de Guaviare is critical today, 10 December. An additional 3,000 peasants joined the previous 4,000 in the past few hours who took over the airport's runway on 7 December and blocked glyphosphate fumigation operations against coca leaves and poppies.

The peasants who joined the protests also took over other government installations according to Julio Gabriel Alvarado Lemus, mayor of San Jose de Guaviare:

[Begin Alvarado recording] They are moving in on schools, and it is believed they will take over all urban installations such as schools and government infrastructures. We are totally incommunicado and are running low on food supplies and fuel. [end recording]

The departmental government, based in San Jose de Guavuiare, expects a high-level government commission by 12 December at the latest:

[Begin recording] [Alvarado] We insist that the national government come here, because we are suffering because of the high-level government decisions firsthand.

[Unidentified speaker] People have to stop making a living this way, but they cannot find an alternative livelihood. Indications are that many will join the guerrillas when they find they are not listened to. [end recording]

The commander of the Army also spoke about the San Jose de Guaviare strike and confirmed the agitators are people with links to drug trafficking and guerrillas. He also announced he will take legal action against those inciting disorder:

[Begin Army Commander General Harold Bedoya recording] What links do they have to drug trafficking? This all-out mobilization is to protest the fumigation that is underway, chiefly in the Miraflores area. Because there are certain peasants acting under duress, we have relayed the reports to the Prosecutor's Office so they can investigate whether they are being held hostage. [end recording]

It was also learned over the last few hours that authorities of San Jose de Guaviare arrested Campo Elias Beltran Diaz, an alleged member of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Force of Colombia] 1st Front and one of the organizers of the strike.

Plan Aims at Improving Justice System

95CA0060C Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p 16A

[FBIS Translated Text] *Justice Minister Nestor Humberto Martinez declared at a press conference that the estimated nine-year lag in judicial activity and the congestion do not require more judges, but rather organization and logistics.*

For the first time, the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) approved a four-year Development Plan for the Judicial Branch. The project has an estimated cost of nearly 124 billion pesos for investment programs alone.

Justice Minister Nestor Humberto Martinez, explaining the purpose of the Development Plan, commented: "The country needs better judges and more managers to properly administer all the human resources in the Judicial Branch."

The minister claimed that the Colombian justice system does not require a single additional judge, nor additional financial resources, because its main problem lies in its management and organization.

The Development Plan is divided into various macroprograms: technical and human support for the judicial system; effective citizen access to judicial services; crime prevention and attention to victims; and improvement of the prison system, to ensure full serving of sentences and rehabilitation of convicts.

The new program, presented by the justice minister and the chairman of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, Jose Alejandro Bonivento, is based on a rough diagnosis of the Judicial Branch's current situation.

For example, the document claims that, by 1993, there were over 4 million case records awaiting decisions. To cite just a single instance, the criminal justice system would require between nine and 10 years to be brought up to date; that is, if not one more case entered this jurisdiction.

According to the document, "The justice sector's expenses, in real terms, rose from representing 0.5 percent of the gross domestic product during the 1970's to 0.7 percent in the 1980's. And the appropriations exceeded 1 percent in 1993 and 1994, increasing more than six times during that period."

Martinez claimed that the main problems in the justice system are related to its managerial structure, the handling of human resources, the presence of gray areas with regard to functions, weakness in the planning systems, a lack of technological facilities, and an inadequate regional distribution of resources.

Bonivento said that one of the means that will bring about an improvement in all these deficiencies is the drawing of a judicial map of the country. This would make it possible to determine the regions in which there are surplus judges and those where there are shortages, so as to redistribute all of the branch's human resources.

Profile of the Judge

Besides reinforcing management in the Judicial Branch, the Development Plan approved by the CONPES yesterday places special emphasis on the human resources entering the Judicial Branch.

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The document claims that, although the state has expended a major effort by raising salaries of the employees in this sector of public administration, and the number of positions as well, there is also a need "to improve the professional profile required for the judicial career, because certain shortcomings still persist in the professional capacity of the personnel selected. This causes a weak management."

As for the increase in Judicial Branch personnel, the report states that, in 1990, there were 26,32 [figure as published] positions, and in 1994 that figure reached 40,536.

Another feature of the Development Plan is the one related to changes in the country's prison system, because, of the total inmate population, 86 percent are recidivist offenders. Moreover, the legal situation of the inmates "indicates that over half, 57 percent, have been accused, and only 43 percent have been convicted."

For this reason, the plan calls for an investment of 48 billion pesos to develop rehabilitation programs and to improve the country's prison facilities.

Finally, the ministry announced that the short-term goal is to continue issuing legal opinions in the lawsuits that are arriving in the judicial offices.

Martinez commented: "For the backlog, for those suits that have been left behind, the government intends to introduce a bill in March of next year to decongest the judicial offices."

The minister also noted that an attempt must be made to remove many disputes from the judicial area, through settlement and justices of the peace.

Martinez on Inefficiency of Justice System

95CA0060B Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Nov 94 p 18A

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister Nestor Humberto Martinez has described the Colombian justice system as "a sleeping beauty," because of its low degree of efficiency.

At a forum organized by the Attorney General's Office to bring officials of that entity up to date, the minister claimed that, at present, every judge is handling over 1,000 case records. He added that a decision in a criminal suit takes between one and 10 years to be made and, in the case of civil proceedings, between five and seven years.

Martinez maintained: "There are in Colombia 4 million lawsuits pending, and nearly 8 million citizens are involved in them."

At the same time, the official noted that every suit costs the state an average of 1.3 million pesos.

According to the minister, for every 100,000 inhabitants in the country, there are 77 homicides; and out of that number the justice system only manages to imprison one criminal.

The high-ranking government official also declared that, despite the large monetary investments made by recent administrations in the Judicial Branch, this sector's efficiency level has been declining to an increasing extent.

Martinez indicated that, in Latin America, Colombia ranks second among the countries contributing the most money to their judicial systems, with Costa Rica ranking first.

In his remarks at the Attorney General's Office last Friday, the minister also stated: "We are the leading country in numbers of judges per inhabitant. There are 17 judges for every 100,000 inhabitants."

Martinez claimed that, in view of the low productivity in the Judicial Branch, and the rise in impunity, the government will continue to reinforce this sector. He also announced the creation of a national statistical system.

The minister cited the need for running the justice system with more management, and for redistributing the judicial offices geographically.

Martinez observed: "In Bogota, for example, there are 80 municipal judges of criminal proceedings who have no work to do, whereas in other places there are no judges."

The official said that, when a judicial map of the entire country is drawn, the requirements will be learned, and it will be possible to devise solutions.

In conclusion, the minister of justice noted that systems for decongestion, such as settlement and justices of the peace, should be put into effect.

Rumors of Friction Between Botero, Serpa

95CA0060A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Dec 94 p 3A

[Article by political editor Jesus Ortiz Nieves]

[FBIS Translated Text] When they were appointed, one as government minister and the other as defense minister, they reached an agreement: "We cannot show discord."

They were referring to the need not to promote public confrontations on government issues because, throughout the campaign, it had become obvious that they were on different sides in ideological matters.

They are keeping the agreement: there are no differences in public. On the contrary, both deny that there are any internal confrontations, and their personal relations could not be better.

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Nevertheless, the very fact of their positions has put them at opposite ends of Ernesto Samper's government, because, while Fernando Botero Zea is minister of war, Horacio Serpa is minister of peace.

And the distance has been created not only by the nature of their offices, but also by the very personalities of those holding them. Botero is from the new generation of politicians, trained at U.S. universities, an expert on polls, with a portable computer that he sets up as soon as he sits down at a table.

Serpa is a provincial person, trained as a judge in dusty Santander towns. He is a skillful negotiator with members of the political class, still carrying the brown briefcase from his days as a congressman.

The deepseated differences on political and social issues began to appear even before the political campaign, but it was in the course of it that they became more intense.

And, during the government's four months in office, their views have been quite different at the council of ministers' meetings. This is only natural considering the fact that the latter are a forum for deliberation, in which unanimity has no reason to exist. However, there have been concrete subjects on which absolute consensus has proven difficult.

This was noted in the comments on the military jurisdiction, when the law on forced disappearance was debated. It also was noted in the handling of the October political campaign, when there were reports of the presence of drug traffickers and guerrillas in some municipalities. It was further noted in the report on the 59 town halls allegedly left in the hands of those groups.

The most glaring difference of all occurred this week, with the episode involving the Rural Security Cooperatives: an issue with a penetrating effect on major sectors of the nation.

Botero claimed to have proposed their creation at President Samper's urging. And Government Minister Horacio Serpa neither supported nor rejected it publicly.

In Botero's view, this is a means that will make it possible, through full government surveillance, to create armed civilian groups that would be "on the defensive" against the guerrillas' constant invasions in the rural areas. The original proposal is aimed at defending livestock raisers, one of the sectors hardest hit by the kidnapping, threats, and extortion.

Serpa, however, according to some of his close associates, is asking different questions. If the livestock raisers are armed today, will it be the banana growers tomorrow? And the day after tomorrow, the trade unionists? Next, it might be the coffee growers; and this could trigger the creation of a series of private armies that would be equally equipped to act on behalf of security.

According to the stance maintained by Serpa on other occasions, it is preferable to arm those who should be armed, based on the Constitution and the law: the members of the public force.

In short, this matter of the cooperatives has been the most revealing reflection of the differences between the two ministers, who were, moreover, mentioned by a group of congress members as two potential presidential candidates "set" for 1998.

Some Background

In a way, this calls to mind the distancing that was at a critical point four years ago between two ministers in the Gaviria government: Development Minister Ernesto Samper and Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes.

What did Gaviria do then? He let the confrontation intensify, but later took sides, giving the final kick in Hommes' favor.

What will Samper do now?

Botero and Serpa were his right-hand men during the campaign, although Serpa is said to have been, rather, the left-hand one.

"If anything happens to me, Serpa is the man." Samper was heard to comment once, in the heat of the campaign. He made this remark in connection with the anxiety involved in traveling from one town to another and from one platform to another, in a country in which they had killed three presidential candidates only four years earlier.

The division of labor in the campaign could not have been better. Serpa was in charge of the political bosses in Repelon and Sogamosa, and in Barranquilla and Bolombolo; while Botera was importing U.S. advisers, getting along with the news media, and entering social clubs as if he owned them.

Hence, Samper, a conciliator by nature, may find it very complicated to choose between styles that are so dissimilar, but as inherent in their political dispositions as those displayed by both of them.

With the launching of the proposal for the defense cooperatives which, it was learned, had not been a topic at the council of ministers meeting nor previously known to Serpa, last Monday the president himself declared it to be something "that is just being evaluated by the government."

And, since that time, an attempt has been made to lower the tone of the controversy.

Sources at Narino House noted that great effort had been expended on the discussion because, ultimately, what is involved is sending the guerrillas a message: Although, with the peace proposal made by the president in Popayan, the carrot was shown, with the proposal to arm civilians the stick would be shown.

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In any event, the episode served to make it clear that, on the most critical issues, it becomes quite difficult for Botero and Serpa not to "show discord."

Performance of Government Officials Faulted

95CA0061A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p 2A

[EL ESPECTADOR editorial: "The Marvels of Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is a platitude to say that power depends on those who exercise it. It can be serious and constructive in some instances, and hesitant in others, depending on the spirit of the executor. It can be muddled and lacking in known goals when left in the hands of improvising individuals; and it can be disconcerting and erratic in the semi-darkness of myopic rulers.

And since the exercise of power, before the audience of public opinion, must assume the chords of a symphony, with a conductor directing the orchestra with the mastery of his baton according to a score, if the conductor fails to lend an attentive ear to the musicians in his orchestra, the chords of power become discordant. And the audience, in its orchestra seats, ends up believing, with reason, that a score does not even exist to serve as a guide for them in their performance.

There is the impression that in Colombia, now and for some time, the orchestra of power has lacked conductors and, what is even more serious: that there is no score serving as a guide for so many instrumental virtuosos performing on their own; because even the Constitution of 1991 leaves to each the free choice of his own personal interpretation, and whatever is heard in the background is an infernal noise.

The president of the republic has still not taken the baton into his hands, and does not seem to be listening to the fugues of his orchestra yet. We could not even be claimed to have reached a time of rehearsals, because the fact is that neither the country nor the musicians know the score well. There is so much strumming done before our eyes and threatening our ears: the Social Pact, the Solidarity Network, the million and a half new jobs, and the rural security cooperatives, that it has become virtually impossible to reconcile so many auditory assaults with one another.

But it is not the Executive Branch alone: the clashes among the different branches of the judicial organ of public power have been showing us, over and over again, that a change is required in the tone of the discordant blast from the Constitution of 1991. This is particularly true if the animated confusion of its discourse is implicated in the moral suspicion of the most recent judicial decisions, with an attorney general declaring himself disqualified, his immediate subordinate acting behind the scenes in the indemnifications, and a lower subordinate whose voice seems to repeat an echo coming from above.

And the Congress, the Congress on a tight-rope: a House of Representatives that does not believe in a high standard of moral conduct when it comes to punishing criminal acts, or perhaps supposes that it is far better to decriminalize than to have recourse to the moral rules of law. And a Senate that is trying to wash its hands, putting a legal stamp on the evasion of the valid confiscatory power of the justice system.

And the Executive Branch again, with the president of the republic as its head: the audiovisual government of the Executive Branch.

The president and his ministers thinking aloud, faced with the irresistible temptation of a microphone or of the television cameras. And, of course, this makes it impossible to prevent contradictions from arising, and the unity of command from breaking down. Each minister on his own, and the president, having just awakened, fending off the hens.

The president has claimed that the circumlocution regarding peace depends only on the High Commissioner's action and words to develop that peace. But the government minister, a survivor of all the peace contacts, disregards the president's instructions and, whenever he can, publicly trips up the High Commissioner, who does not speak, but is discreet and laconic. It is then that the audience wonders: Where is the president? And it can only guess that the president may be returning to Colombia one of these days.

Now, the defense minister and what he has called the Rural Security Cooperatives. The minister commits himself, thinking aloud as usual, or prompted from within to release a trial balloon. And the atmosphere becomes heated. Then the president says that the proposal is in an "evaluation phase." We Colombians wonder: Why isn't it "evaluated" in silence, with the orchestra appearing later under its conductor's baton, with the score learned, and performing the symphony?

These are the marvels of power.

The illusion of the institutional funeral.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Sees Free Trade Zone as 'Challenge'

PA1212185194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1714 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 12 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The creation of a free trade zone on the continent is a challenge for the region and involves tough negotiations, commentaries here today concurred with regard to the conclusions of the Summit of the Americas, held in Miami.

For President Sixto Duran-Ballen, the free trade zone agreed upon at the end of the summit this weekend

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presents a challenge for the region's nations, according to statement made to the Ecuadoran daily EL UNIVERSAL at the summit location.

Duran-Ballen labeled the conclusions of the presidential summit as a Latin America victory as the drafts had initially only made reference to continental integration.

"There was pressure to reach an agreement, and President William Clinton was very wise," the Ecuadoran daily EL COMMERCIO commented in its editorial.

According to the newspaper, for the first time a meeting between the United States and Latin America has concluded without economic offers or demands, an indication that paternalism is disappearing, and one of the lessons at the summit is that the future will not be at all easy.

Jaime Moncayo, former Latin America Economic System (SELA) secretary and former Ecuadoran ambassador to the United States, declared to the local press that the Miami resolution means that "the road is open."

Moncayo commented that NAFTA negotiations between the United States, Mexico, and Canada were very difficult and that the ensuing process as a result of the Miami summit "should be understood as a continental challenge for the next 10 years."

The United States has demonstrated its capacity to convene, but this does not mean it will have an exclusive commitment with Latin America as trade liberalization is a world tendency, he commented.

The Ecuadoran diplomat warned, however, that "the mere opening of the markets does not solve the region's problems," and that the consolidation of democracy and the respect for human rights are indispensable, among other aspects.

The Quito daily HOY indicated that the organization of a free trade zone by the year 2005 "means arduous cultural, economic, and political development."

The newspaper points out that the situation in Europe, where similar zones have been created after 40 years, is different from the Americas where there is a mosaic of diverse peoples with different economic realities and diverse historical stages.

"The union of the Americas will demand the overcoming of unequal relations in which U.S. political and economic hegemony has prevailed, more than cooperation among the nations on the continent," the daily added.

Government Signs Agreements on Indian Peoples

PA1212194494 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ecuador has joined the international proclamation of the Decade of the World's Indian Peoples adopted by the United Nations. In honor of the Indian people, the Ecuadoran Government has signed 34 agreements between communities and the administration to make feasible disbursements and a better standard of living among the Indian peoples.

Legislators Continue Stand on Not Reforming Constitution

PA1212193194 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Legislators continue to hold their position not to reform the Constitution, particularly the executive draft bill. Although all say they want to approve the reforms as soon as possible, the majority stands on both sides, because they want a referendum so the people could reject the government by voting no to the reforms. The points with greater differences are independent elections, reelection to public posts, and dual nationality. Certain political parties have stated up front they want a referendum so the people can manifest their positions on all the constitutional reforms.

Paraguay

Congress Approves Bill Against Illegal Enrichment

PY1312013794 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The Chamber of Deputies yesterday passed—without much discussion, and almost unanimously—the bill sponsored by Senator Carlos Romero Pereira that amends the Penal Code and establishes penalties for public officials involved in the crime of illegal enrichment.

The bill defines illegal enrichment of a public servant as "supplemental income that far exceeds the amount that might result from adding up his legally accredited ordinary and special earnings."

The document says that the public servant who demands, receives, or accepts promises—personally or through third parties—of some kind of gift or retribution for performing or not performing his duty is liable to a punishment of from three to five years in prison. He will also be banned from holding public office for a period of not less than his prison term and not more than twice the same. He must also pay a fine amounting to double the cost of the gift or accepted promise.

If the crime involves a judge, the penalty will be four to 10 years in prison and a total and permanent ban from occupying a court position. He must also pay a fine worth three to four times the amount of the money or promise received.

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A person who encourages a public official to violate this law will also be penalized with from three to five years in prison and a fine amounting to double or triple the amount accepted or promised.

A public official who misappropriates funds from a public office, an autonomous enterprise, a binational entity, or a departmental or municipal government causing losses will be penalized with from five to 10 years in prison and a 10 to 20 year ban from holding public office.

If the person charged with the crime returns the value of the embezzlement before a warrant for his preventive imprisonment is issued, he will be penalized with dismissal and a 10 to 20 year ban from holding public office. He will also have to pay a fine amounting to 100 percent of the amount stolen.

Human Rights Organization Releases Document

PY1212213194 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] In a document that was released on 9 December commemorating the Week of Human Rights, the National Human Rights Commission "No More State Terrorism" states that our country has not yet achieved substantial improvement in the area of human rights.

During a news conference that he gave on 9 December, Dionisio Gauto, the organization's spokesman, stated that those who favor and pine for a return of the dictatorship are trying to cover up the crimes of the past. "There have been no trials or punishment for the majority of those who are responsible for crimes against the people and for emptying the state coffers."

The communique also indicates that the impunity of these people and the current state of corruption are alarming.

The members of the organization indicated that instead of clearing up murders, disappearances, and thefts against the state, other murders have occurred, such as those of Santiago Leguizamon, Esteban Balbuena, Sebastian Larrosa, and more recently the murder of General Ramon Rosa Rodriguez, which "was carried out by people from the world of drugs."

"There have been no advances in the promotion of the economic, social, and cultural rights of the people with this restricted and tutelary democracy that rules us. The economic and social democracy continues to be absent," the document states.

According to those who are members of the organization, political democracy, which is purely formal and a facade, is disappointing the people, who are asking that urgent attention be paid to their fundamental needs, such as land, work, housing, health, and education.

They also consider that the standard of living of the people is deteriorating due to the fact that the real salaries and wages of workers have been reduced. This is also causing anguish in the poorer sectors of society.

"We also observe that the budget contains fabulous sums of money for the unproductive expenditures of the state, the Armed Forces, and the police, while there are only small increases for teachers, employees, and workers on the intermediate and lower salary scales," the document concludes.

Police Department Reshuffled; New Officers Named

PY1312114694 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Dec 94 p 76

[FBIS Translated Text] The document listing the designations includes the appointment of Police Superintendant Ruben Pedrozo Pacce as Itapua Department order and security chief and Police Superintendant German Arevalos Acosta as Canindeyu Department order and security chief.

Police Principal Superintendant Sindulfo Estanislao Navarro Denis was named head of the metropolitan 23d Police Precinct while Police Principal Superintendant Francisco Pereira Simbron was named Villa Hayes order and security chief.

Police Superintendant Calixto Aguero Godoy will head the metropolitan 18th Police Precinct. Police Superintendant Carlos Armoa Gomez was named Amambay Department order and security chief.

Police Superintendant Victorino Tomas Amarilla Uzuriaga will head the 12th Police Precinct, in Ita, while Police Superintendant Hector Gaspar Lugo Rodriguez will head the metropolitan 3d Police Precinct.

The resolution says that Police Superintendant Antonio Galias Hentz will head the 22d Police Precinct, in Guarambare, and Police Superintendant Alfredo Caceres Gonzalez will head the metropolitan 7th Police Precinct.

Police Superintendant Eireen Diaz Vargas was appointed head of the metropolitan 10th Police Precinct and Police Superintendant Oscar R. Fretes Lamarque chief of the 6th Police Precinct, in Lima.

Police Inspector Eugenio Fretes Alarcon was named new Specialized Group intendant, while Police Officer 1st Class Nelson Nunez was appointed head of the Security Group.

Police Superintendant Oscar Diosnel Recalde, former head of the Identifications Department, will now head the metropolitan 20th Police Precinct.

Police Principal Superintendant Leonor Ibanez Aquino was named Caazapa Department order and security chief.

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Police Superintendant Wilfrido Gardia Cantero will head the 5th Police Precinct, in Itacuribi del Rosario; while Police Superintendant Juan Carlos Olmedo Franco will head the 46th Police Precinct.

Police Superintendant Francisco Antunez Quinonez was named chief of the Cordillera Department 9th Sub-Police Precinct; Police Superintendant Higinio Perez Benitez was appointed head of the 25th Police Precinct, in Ytororo; and Police Superintendant Miguel Angel Alvarez Salomon was named chief of Caaguazu's Police Precinct.

The long list concludes with the designations of Police Superintendant Hugo Lopez Leon as head of La Victoria 1st Police Precinct, in Alto Paraguay Department; Police Deputy Superintendant Genaro Gustavo Oviedo Paniagua as the metropolitan 9th Police Precinct deputy chief; and Police Deputy Superintendant Crispin Zelaya Salinas as Barcequillo's 15th Police Precinct deputy chief.

Defense Minister Meets With Russian Envoy

PY1212212694 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Dec 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Paraguayan Defense Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche has met with Russian Ambassador Yan Burlyay and talked about the situation in the two countries. The Russian ambassador offered to cooperate with the Paraguayan national defense and praised the quality of Russian military technology.

Ambassador Burlyay emphasized that the democratic opening in the so-called Russian Federation has allowed him to visit Paraguay in the quest for better political, economic, and technological relations.

He made a point of saying that the government of the Russian Federation decisively supports the free market economy.

He briefed the minister on the highly advanced Russian military technology, adding that Russia has already exported arms, vehicles, and heavy machinery to other South American countries.

Peru

Human Rights Group Rejects Fujimori's Criticism

PY1212212894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0146 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 9 Dec (EFE)—Peru's National Coordination Board of Human Rights [CNDDHH] today "categorically" rejected President Alberto Fujimori's criticism of human rights organizations, which he said were the "accomplices" of terrorism.

Before departing for the Summit of the Americas in Miami, and during a ceremony held to commemorate Army Day, Fujimori said on 8 December in Lima that human right organizations had "remained silent" about the crimes perpetrated by subversive groups.

He added that "their silence of complicity encouraged" the terrorist organizations Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) to perpetrate human rights violations.

In a communique issued today the CNDDHH said that Fujimori's statement is "false and biased." In it also refers to similar charges made by General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command.

The communique states that in his statement President Fujimori is "lying once again, or trying to ignore" the extensive activity of Peruvian human rights organizations, which "from the very start of the political violence have constantly and publicly condemned terrorist groups."

The communique adds that to say that fundamentalist human rights organizations are the "accomplices" of subversion is "a serious charge that we categorically reject."

The communique demands that Fujimori "publicly withdraw this slander."

The CNDDHH adds that Fujimori's statements have as "a political intention" the discrediting of human rights organizations, thus "undermining the credibility of charges of serious human rights violations perpetrated during the current and previous presidential terms by Armed Forces members, who go unpunished and are protected by top-ranking members of this administration."

The communique ends by "regretting" that Fujimori's statement coincides with the CNDDHH's anniversary and the start of the Summit of the Americas, which should be an auspicious occasion for the government leaders of the Americas to reassert their commitment to the defense of human rights "going beyond any rhetoric."

Poll: Perez de Cuellar Falls Further Behind

PY1212155394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1622 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lima, 11 Dec (EFE)—President Alberto Fujimori, who is seeking reelection in the 9 April 1995 elections, is still ahead, while his closest rival, Javier Perez de Cuellar, is falling further behind, according to a poll of voters' intentions published today.

According to a poll by the private company IMASEN that covers 75 percent of Peruvian territory, including the large Peruvian cities and some rural areas, Fujimori has obtained 47.5 percent of the votes, while Perez de Cuellar remains further behind with 20.2 percent.

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Economist Alejandro Toledo, who is considered the third candidate in the electoral dispute in terms of chances to reach the Peruvian presidency, is moving backward, with 7.6 percent.

In case of a runoff election, Fujimori would obtain 56.3 percent of the votes in the elections, in which 12 million Peruvians are eligible to participate, while Perez de Cuellar would obtain 29.6 percent of the votes.

IMASEN's survey also refers to other aspects linked to the candidates, aspects and issues that influence the position of the future voters.

According to the poll, 65.6 percent of all Peruvians approve the current Peruvian president's administration, while 25.9 percent disapprove of it.

Concerning the possibility of definitely annihilating terrorism in Peru, 65.1 percent of all Peruvians believe that subversion will disappear with the reelection of President Fujimori for another term in office.

More than half of the Peruvians believe that if Fujimori remains in power for another five-year term, the possibility of investment of foreign capital in Peru will increase. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Lima Mayor Ricardo Belmont, candidate of the Obras Civic Movement, has announced the beginning of his campaign to obtain 1 million followers and thus demonstrate "that we do have the people's support."

Uruguay

Leftist Montevideo Mayor-Elect Interviewed

PY1312011294 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 1 Dec 94 pp 14-15

[Interview with Montevideo Mayor-elect Mariano Arana of the Broad Front by unidentified BUSQUEDA reporters in Montevideo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [BUSQUEDA] Many taxpayers are complaining that the state of the city has deteriorated. Their argument is that the street vendors have invaded spaces that were not allocated to them by City Hall, and that this has also been questioned by the businesses along 18 de Julio Avenue. Are you thinking of undertaking a solution to this problem?

[Arana] Measures have been approved, and the measures are there to be complied with. Some weeks ago we talked with the shop owners of downtown Montevideo, and they indicated that they are willing to contribute to cleaning up the downtown area where the country has its largest concentration of commercial activities. The depression in the price of real estate has now stopped and is slowly being reversed. Montevideo's downtown area is economically and commercially important and is a symbol of the city as a whole. The willingness of the shop owners to act jointly with the public sector to renovate the physical aspects of the city could be a way of contributing toward that urban requalification. Joint action must be carried by the public and private sectors, such as the action taken with Yi Street, which was a very attractive way of generating a downtown pole of interest, something that is now occurring with the esplanade of City Hall.

[BUSQUEDA] And on the other hand we have the rural areas with an old geographical delimitation. How does your administration plan to handle urban expansion toward those areas?

[Arana] The expansion of the city blocks would not be suitable. The city has grown more quickly in its geographical aspect than in its demographic aspect, and the cost could be very heavy for the municipal administration. The social costs are also heavy, as it implies living far away from the sources of work, from commercial services and cultural attractions. This situation will force us to control growth more strictly, giving a say to rural producers who want to set limits on the continuous expansion of city blocks, which in the past has almost split one of the most productive areas due to the invasion of illegal settlers forcing producers to leave. We want to strengthen rural policies already proposed by the current administration to aid small and medium-sized producers in areas such as Rincon del Cerro and Melilla, where we have very important risk investments.

[Arana] Your municipal government program speaks about assuring municipal workers' ethics and efficiency. Has this not been accomplished so far?

[BUSQUEDA] We have not yet been able to entirely eliminate long practices affecting ethics and efficiency. This administration, more than any other, has proposed the dismissal of many public servants due to notorious irregularities.

[Arana] One leader said, during the victory celebration at the EP [Progressive Encounter coalition that includes the Broad Front] press office during the early morning hours of 28 November, that in order to win at a national level, the EP needed the votes that were lost due to the bureaucracy and careless attention at IMM [Montevideo City Hall] offices. Is one of your goals to correct this situation?

[BUSQUEDA] It is one of my priorities to correct items or problems that might be perceived by the public as lack of respect. Nothing, absolutely nothing, can excuse servants' ill-treatment of citizens. We trust we will be able to improve the decentralizing process by introducing changes in order to obtain information faster and more accurately.

The departmental program stresses the phrase "assuring the administration's efficiency." Current City Hall authorities had difficulties assuring efficiency because current laws make the application of sanctions difficult. Should the law be changed?

[Arana] We must correct anything that prevents public servants from treating citizens the way they deserve.

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[BUSQUEDA] Would you, then, implement more severe regulations to control public servants' efficiency?

[Arana] Not necessarily more severe, but adjusted to what citizens deserve.

[BUSQUEDA] The EP platform says: "Municipal reform means transferring the main state reform ideas approved by the people on 13 December 1992 to the municipal level." What are those ideas?

[Arana] Some of those ideas were already presented as draft bills by those among us who support the elimination of five articles in the so-called Public Companies Law. We proposed a state reform in harmony with a modern state, but at the same time attentive, sensitive, and showing solidarity with people's needs. In order to implement this idea we need more efficiency, more responsibility, and a good administration of resources, human as well as material resources. The current administration has shown that it can do better and more with similar, or even less, human and material resources. We were not able to have that bill approved due to several desertions and misunderstandings. Today the strength of the different blocs in Congress is different. It will be easier to pass the authentic reform we all want to implement. We can achieve a similar reform at the municipal level as well.

[BUSQUEDA] The program also speaks about assuring worker- government relations by giving workers an active participation. The current administration has recognized that its efforts to increase worker participation and the granting of salary hikes have not produced the expected results.

[Arana] We will not be able to improve our services without municipal workers' conscience of what we are doing, and without their participation. I trust that their growing awareness that our duty is to serve, placing respect for people first, will translate into the kind of services our people deserve.

[BUSQUEDA] How would you encourage that increased participation at the municipal level?

[Arana] Through professional work or training to permit workers to improve their own municipal careers.

[BUSQUEDA] On 29 November President Luis Alberto Lacalle invited President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti to meet and discuss the transition. Will municipal authorities do the same?

[Arana] I will invite all political forces to a dialogue after I return on 7 December. That is the way we Uruguayans should try to improve our citizens' standard of living. In any case, and beyond our differences, we must not keep the population a hostage of our political differences. I have consulted on this decision with my fellow EP followers.

[BUSQUEDA] What parties or political movements, besides the EP, do you expect will support your administration the most?

[Arana] Party leaders must answer that question for I am not the appropriate person to do so.

[BUSQUEDA] You have operated in the Broad Front and have participated in the electoral campaign. You must, therefore, have a clear idea about groups that are predisposed to cooperate.

[Arana] Honestly, I cannot make any bets.

[BUSQUEDA] During the campaign the EP had some very harsh confrontations with the Colorado Party. The confrontations were not as harsh with the National Party. During the debate between Tabare Vazquez and Juan Andres Ramirez, the EP and the National Party even agreed. For the next five years Sanguinetti will be the president and you will be Montevideo mayor. Do you think your administration's relations with the Colorado Party government will be different from the current administration's relations with the National Party government?

[Arana] The forces' relations have changed significantly. We would like to see an end to the discrimination against Montevideo that has occurred for the past five years. For instance, the government supported the program of rural road construction and maintenance, and completely ignored Montevideo's needs in this area. Rural producers from all parties suffered the consequences.

[BUSQUEDA] The question was whether you thought confrontations with the Colorado Party administration would be worse than with a National Party administration.

[Arana] On the contrary, I think the sensible reality of a country that is changing rapidly, where progressive forces are continuously increasing their strength, will make every one, including us, ponder the need to create the necessary conditions for building the best country possible.

[BUSQUEDA] Do you believe, then, that your relations with the Sanguinetti administration will be better than the current City Hall administration's relations with the National Party?

[Arana] The situation today is different. The Broad Front is stronger, and I trust we all learned from the experience.

[BUSQUEDA] What is your opinion about the great electoral difference between [Broad Front alliance members] Uruguay Assembly and, for instance, the Socialist Party or the Artigaist Sector?

[Arana] A new option always attracts people's attention. On the other hand, the outstanding performance of our colleague Danilo Astori as senator also had an influence on those firm and categorical results.

[BUSQUEDA] Astori interpreted those results as those of a primary election. What is your opinion about this?

[Arana] I believe in democracy. I do not think we should automatically transfer the results of a national election to a Broad Front primary. But facts are facts.

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